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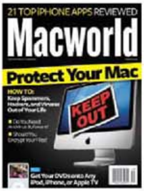

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MACWORLD.COM'S TOP 5

The top 5 stories on Macworld.com are:

1 **Review: iPhone 3G**
Our review finds that people who waited for version 2.0 will be rewarded for their patience (macworld.com/2792).

2 **Apple Officially Releases iPhone OS 2.0 Update**
iPhone 2.0 software brings with it a number of improvements and new features (macworld.com/2793).

3 **iPhone 3G: Hands-On Reviewer's Notebook**
Jason Snell shares his in-progress report on Apple's new phone (macworld.com/2794).

4 **Crowds, Activation Delays Hit iPhone Launch**
We encounter long lines—and activation delays—when we go to pick up an iPhone 3G (macworld.com/2795).

5 **A First Look at the App Store**
Even before Apple released its iPhone 2.0 software, iTunes 7.7 unlocked the App Store (macworld.com/2796).

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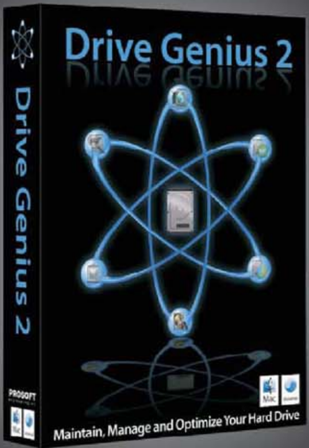
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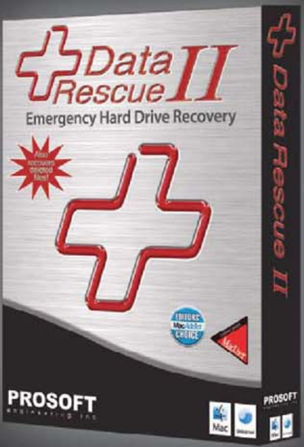
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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK By Jason Snell

Know Your Limits

What the iPhone 3G, the App Store, and MobileMe launches say about Apple

The stunning success of the iPod and the media hoopla surrounding the iPhone have transformed the way the world looks at Apple. In five years, it has gone from being the company that makes weird non-Windows computers to the company that makes all kinds of cool products—including great, non-Windows computers. Apple is now seen as a digital-media juggernaut that can do no wrong as it steamrollers over everybody else in the technology industry.

There's just one problem with that image: It's not true. And in the past year, we've seen several examples of Apple's reach exceeding its grasp.

Size Is Relative

Obviously, Apple is no longer the two-guys-in-a-garage operation that started out in 1976. In its last quarter, it generated more than $7 billion in revenue and a $1.1 billion profit.

But compare Apple to Microsoft and you'll see how relatively small Apple still is. Between April and June of 2008, Microsoft generated $15.8 billion in revenue, $4.3 billion of that in profit—more than twice as much revenue as Apple and nearly four times as much profit. Microsoft employs 91,000 people worldwide, compared to Apple's 21,000.

Apple takes pride in its superselective hiring process. "It's just finding the needles in the haystack," Steve Jobs told *Fortune* recently. By all accounts, the result is a remarkably talented workforce—but it's not a big one.

Too Much, Too Fast?

There are signs that today's Apple has plenty of good ideas, but not enough capacity to implement them all.

The most obvious example is the launch of Leopard, which was delayed for months while Apple focused on finishing the first version of the iPhone.

PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER BELANGER

Today's Apple has plenty of good ideas, but not enough capacity to implement them all.

When that iPhone shipped, developers immediately began asking for a way to write programs for it. Apple had no doubt been planning for such a system from the earliest days of iPhone development. But the company didn't unveil it until March 2008.

Even when the App Store finally arrived in July, the company was still scrambling to put the pieces together. Developers had scores of questions about the store, the rules of iPhone development—you name it, and Apple had a hard time keeping up.

I don't think people at Apple are slacking off. On the contrary, I think the company and its employees are pedaling as fast as they can. It's just not fast enough.

The MobileMe Fiasco

Which brings us to MobileMe, Apple's successor to .Mac. MobileMe's launch was fraught with problems, including long periods of downtime, an extended e-mail outage, and sync failures. MobileMe arrived on July 11, the same day that Apple released the iPhone 3G and the iPhone 2.0 software—which were themselves plagued by lengthy activation delays.

It makes you wonder: why did Apple, a relatively small company, decide to launch a brand-new phone, a major software update, the iPhone App Store, and a new Web service, all on the same day? I suppose the company thought it would make a big splash, and it did—but it was caused by a belly flop.

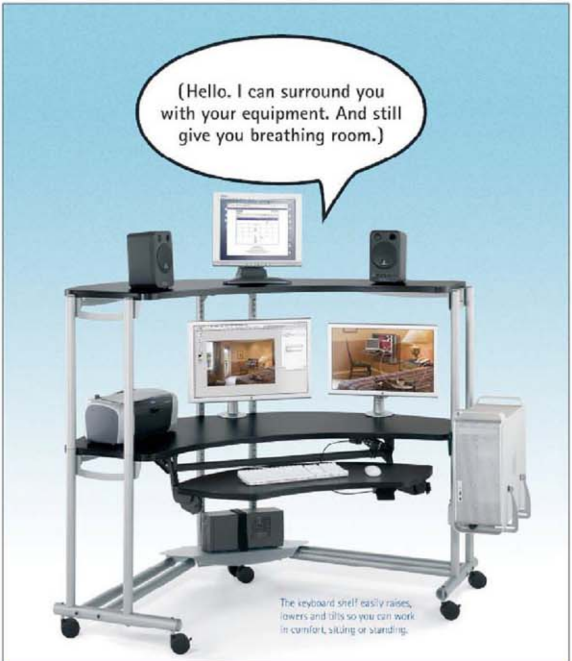
Apple admitted as much. "It was a mistake to launch MobileMe at the same time as iPhone 3G, iPhone 2.0 software and the App Store," Jobs wrote in a memo to Apple employees in August. "We all had more than enough to do, and MobileMe could have been delayed without consequence."

There's a sports cliché that fits here: playing within yourself. It means knowing what you can and can't do and acting accordingly. Lately, it seems, Apple hasn't been playing within itself.

So the question is, what does Apple do now? It could step up its recruitment efforts, so that it has enough people to implement all of its great ideas (a plan that risks diluting Apple's carefully selected pool of talent). Or it could remain at its current size and scale back its plans a bit, so that it can execute those plans better.

I'm not sure which path Apple should take. I only hope, for the sake of the company's future success and the sake of its customers, it solves the problems that led to what happened on July 11. ☒

What do you think? Should Apple go big, or should it stay small and more focused? Let me know in the Macworld forums (forums.macworld.com) or via e-mail at jason_snell@macworld.com.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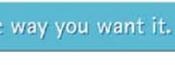

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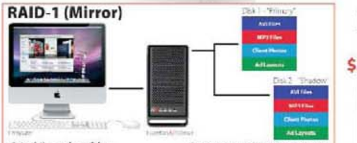

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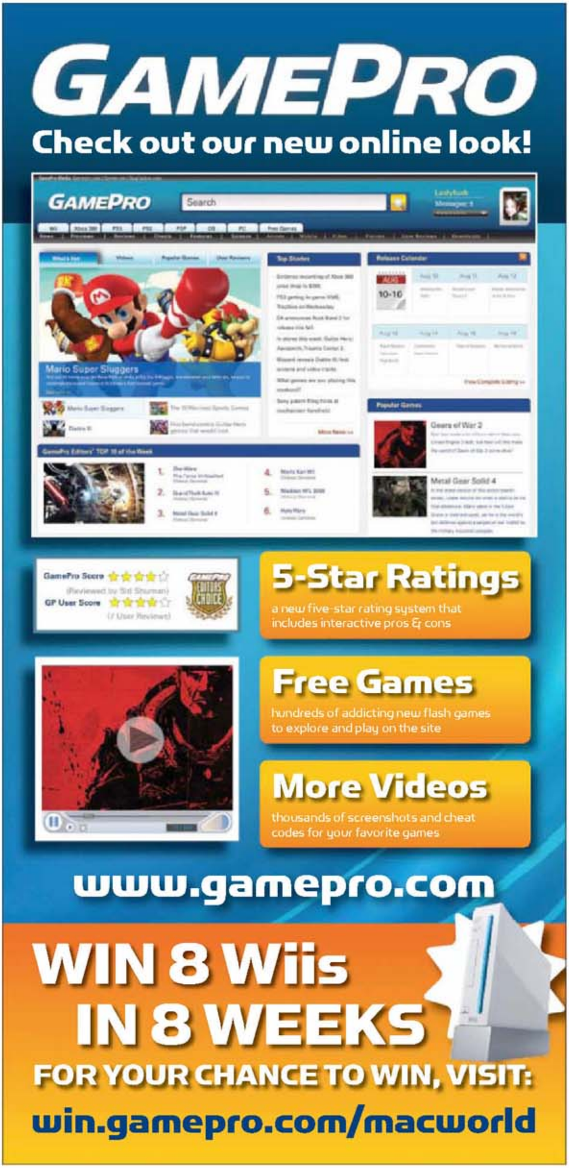
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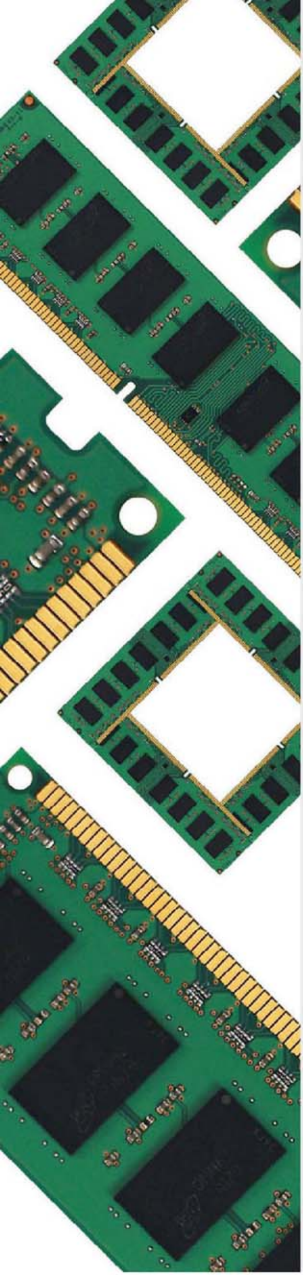

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FEEDBACK

The Leopard Debate

Chatting about e-mail programs and the merits of Leopard

SUPERFAST! iMac Breaks 3GHz Barrier, p. 40
Macworld
27 Steps to a Happy Mac
HOW TO: Avoid System Slowdowns and Data Disasters
E-MAIL PRODUCTIVITY GUIDE
Empty Your Inbox | Best E-mail Tools

OS Face-Off

I loved Rick LePage's essay (*Spotlight*, July 2008). It's good to know I'm not the only one who thinks Mac OS X 10.5 is too buggy. I expect Windows to behave like this, but not my Mac. Hopefully, the Apple software engineers will read that column, do something about it, and be my heroes again.

✉ **Peter Hamm**

Fortunately, Rick LePage's experiences are unique to a small minority of users. For most of us, Leopard has been as reliable as previous Mac OS releases, if not more so.

🗨 **Mississauga**

I couldn't agree with Rick LePage more. I've often questioned whether Apple hired a bunch of Microsoft engineers and turned them loose on Leopard. There are just so many little things in it that are flaky, especially in a cross-platform, large network environment.

🗨 **JScott**

Not that I disagree or deny any of the issues mentioned by Rick LePage, but he must recognize that those problems (none of which I personally have) are felt only by a small minority. Please, don't make personal problems appear as more of a concern than they actually are. The sky is not falling, Mr. Little.

✉ **Bob Marketos**

OVERHEARD ON THE FORUMS

Funny how the increased cost of the iPhone 3G plans neatly removes the benefit of that hardware subsidy, isn't it? It's almost as if AT&T planned it that way.

Bynkii
macworld.com/3779

With the new iPhone at $199, I won't completely hate myself if I drop and break my old one. It is scary carrying around a $400 phone. Knowing that for 200 bucks I could get a replacement is a little more comforting.

funnyboy88
macworld.com/3778

I cannot help thinking that Apple has felt the leaving of Avadis Tevanian during the last year. When you look at what he accomplished with Apple's establishment of OS X, it is nothing short of amazing.

✉ **Clarence H. Baisdon**

The Best E-mail Clients

I cannot agree completely with your assessment of Apple Mail 3.2 as the top choice for a desktop mail application (*Reviews*, July 2008), especially when it comes to managing e-mail providers like .Mac or Gmail. While it does support Gmail via IMAP, it generally does not work if your computer is behind a company firewall that blocks the IMAP ports. This limitation exists for any e-mail server that sits outside a firewall, and whose server ports are blocked by the firewall.

✉ **Keith Wedinger**

Though Apple Mail won your shoot-out of e-mail clients by a nose, it would have been a runaway winner with the addition of InDev's MailTags plug-in (www.indev.ca). MailTags lets you tag messages with a project, keywords, and notes—all searchable. It also integrates with iCal, supporting to-dos, events, deadlines, and priorities.

✉ **Rob Lewis**

Scheduling Conflict

I was hoping to simplify my calendars as you suggested in your recent *Working Mac* column (July 2008). Unfortunately, imported events from the original local calendar would not stay in the new IMAP calendar. Quitting iCal and restarting resulted in an empty month, save for the to-dos I had added via Mail. And

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adding a new event to the IMAP calendar within iCal isn't possible either. I'm not sure if this is a limitation or bug, but it seems IMAP calendars are only good for to-dos and *not* for iCal events.

Lacey D.

The instructions I gave in "Sort Out To-Dos from the Start" don't entirely work as described. It's best to set Mail's preferences so that notes and to-do items are always stored either locally (On My Mac) or always on a particular e-mail server. See macworld.com/3777 for the full, corrected instructions.—Joe Kissell

Essential Questions

Although much of "Essential Mac Maintenance" (July 2008) is useful to me, as a Mac OS X 10.4 user, I was annoyed by the assumption that your readers have all switched to 10.5. I only recently changed from 10.3 to 10.4 because the newer version simply didn't offer enough advantages. The only reason I upgraded was so that I could use an application that required 10.4.

David McMillin

This article was largely applicable for anyone using a recent Mac and a recent version of Mac OS X. The only area that specifically focused on 10.5 was the set of instructions for setting up an additional user account—a process that is very similar in 10.3 and 10.4. We did mention Leopard's Time Machine, but we also noted other backup software and linked to articles on setting up a backup system.—Dan Frakes

Essential Mac Maintenance
Keep your Mac in tip-top shape with these simple tasks
By Dan Frakes

While it is true that Apple's Hardware Test does only a single pass in its default setting, a hidden feature called Looping Mode will cause the test to run repeatedly until canceled ("Get Your House in Order" in "Essential Mac Maintenance"). After launching Apple's Hardware Test, you toggle looping mode on and off by pressing control-L. My advice would be to initiate the looping in the evening and let it run all night, as each loop can take a half hour or longer depending upon how much memory you have installed.

Jgelbord

Looping Mode is not available in Apple Hardware Test for iMac G5 version 2.2.1, or in Hardware Test for Power Mac G5 version 2.2.5.—Heather Kelly

Dan Frakes must be an old geezer if he remembers when you changed the oil in your car every 3,000 miles. Most owners manuals will tell you to change at 7,500 miles or more. For more than 30 years I've used Mobile 1 in my cars, changing it at 15,0000 to 20,000 miles.

Robert Fisher

The 3,000-mile line at the beginning of that feature was actually included for narrative effect, chosen because it's the one everyone has heard, over and over, for years. Had we known how many people would focus on that line—you're far from the only one to write about it—we might have removed it altogether.—Dan Frakes

A Happy Customer

As a new subscriber to *Macworld* and an even newer Mac convert, I have to say that the July 2008 issue finally hit the mark. I subscribed to read about Mac computers and OS X. Instead, it often feels like the iPhone and iPod are the real focus of the magazine. But the July issue—aside from a passing article about unlocked iPhones and one about digital cameras—had more useful information about the Mac than any I've seen to date.

Fred Hargis

Change of Address

I read with interest your *Mac 911* column about moving Address Book data (July 2008). For users moving from Tiger to Leopard, you might want to point out that by default, the Back Up Address Book command in Tiger's Address Book saves the file with the date in the file name—for example, as Address Book Backup - 6/4/08. When you try and import this backup into Leopard's Address Book, the import will fail. Leopard interprets the slashes in the file name as part of the path to the file. I suggest renaming the backup file so that it does not include any slashes.

Jeff Mao

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Correction

The June 2008 DSLR roundup incorrectly stated some of the Olympus E-3's specs. Its viewfinder has a 100 percent view of the image area and has 11 fully crossed biaxial autofocus target points. The E3 can assign up to four custom settings and has a programmable Fn button. And its Live View supports 5×, 7×, and 10× zoom. We tested with a lens that has a 24–120mm 35mm equivalency.

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MacUser

iPHONE

App Store Update Woes

iPhone developers still frustrated with process **BY JIM DALRYMPLE**

Compared to the iPhone 3G and MobileMe, which had somewhat rocky starts when they were introduced, Apple's App Store had a relatively smooth launch for consumers. For many iPhone developers, however, working with Apple and the App Store has been anything but smooth.

Developers we spoke to have had several problems with the App Store—the only place where you can buy applications for the iPhone and the iPod touch. First, it's been taking a long time for updates submitted to Apple to get pushed to the public. Second, Apple isn't communicating with developers about when applications will be pushed live. Finally, Apple hadn't been providing enough sales information, so developers had no idea how their applications were doing (Apple didn't start offering daily download statistics until a few weeks after the App Store opened).

Because of the sensitive nature of working with Apple, many developers only talked to us about App Store problems on the condition of anonymity (Apple representatives didn't respond to our request for comment).

A Host of Problems

For the consumer, one of the great things about the App Store is that it notifies you when updates become available for an application you've purchased. The notification works for free applications as well (when it works at all, that is). The problem is that it's taking a week, or more in some cases, for developer-submitted updates to post on the App Store.

The delay could easily be explained away as the result of Apple being overwhelmed with the number of new applications, but developers aren't so sure that explains what's going on. According to some developers, Apple is ignoring their updates in favor of those from larger companies.

"We submitted an update a week ago, and it still isn't updated," said one iPhone developer. "Some apps seem to

ILLUSTRATION BY ERIC STURDEVANT; PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF APPLE

get updated quickly, so some type of favoritism is evident. I've seen one day, and then I've seen two weeks—no one knows why the disparity, either."

Updates from developers, especially in the early stages of a new platform, can be very important. A lot of times, the updates fix major problems like crashes or other issues that cause the application to not work as intended. That frustration is multiplied for developers when the update is done but can't be distributed because Apple has not approved its release.

"I'm not happy with [the] delays involved and the seemingly arbitrary favoritism that's evident," said the iPhone developer. "It's either favoritism or just general chaos."

Not all iPhone developers are that upset with the update times. While they still notice a delay in posting updates, they hope that once Apple has worked through the backlog, things will pick up a bit.

John Casasanta, a cofounder of tap tap tap, said that it seems like Apple has its hands full, because his company submitted a couple of updates for Where To and Tipulator, but the initial versions stayed on the App Store for a while. His Tipulator update had been in the queue for at least a week before making it to the App Store.

Developers have also noted that from a user perspective, the updates don't seem to hit all iPhones at the same time. Updated applications that aren't showing up for some users have been available to other users for several days.

The lack of communication from Apple is also making things difficult for the developers. Nobody really has any idea how long updates will take to get posted, and Apple isn't saying.

Fraser Speirs, the owner of Connected Flow (the maker of the Exposure Flickr application for the iPhone), expressed concern about how delays could affect customer support and sales.

It's taking a week, or more in some cases, for developer-submitted updates to post on the App Store.

"I don't have a problem with updates being reviewed [by Apple prior to posting], but it has to go a lot faster," said Speirs. "Given the no-demos rule, an app lives or dies by App Store reviews. It's incredibly frustrating to watch review after review complain about a bug that you fixed and 'shipped' two weeks ago."

While developers are OK with Apple's having a review process, some of the steps in that process don't make a lot of sense, and the reasons for rejection can be even more mystifying.

"They reject apps for superficial things [icons that are the wrong size, confusingly worded messages], while sometimes major bugs slip in under the radar," said another iPhone developer. "It seems pretty haphazard and human-powered rather than automated."

Fixing the Situation

When it comes right down to it, developers are most upset about the time delays and communication (or lack thereof) with Apple.

"My only issue with app review is the time factor," said Connected Flow's Speirs. "If I needed to fix a data-destroying bug, or a privacy or security issue, would it take this long? My 1.0.1 update contained fixes for three serious crashing bugs, yet it took a week to get it on the store. Mac developers have been used to pushing out updates as soon as they're ready."

Other developers echoed Speirs's sentiments and asked that Apple speed up the process, especially for critical bug fixes.

Although the App Store has been a great success for Apple, the company still has a lot of work to do on the back end. And while developers need Apple to distribute their apps, Apple also needs a spirited development community to help the iPhone achieve its success.

Jim Dalrymple is *Macworld*'s editor at large.

ITUNES

Genius Bars Draw the Ire of Anti-DRM Campaigners

In the noble war against digital rights management (DRM), civilians may get hurt—this time, the collateral damage may end up being Apple customers in need of help at the Genius Bar. Anti-DRM guerrilla group Defective By Design is urging people to book slots at Apple's Genius Bars and pester Geniuses with questions about DRM.

This guerrilla action will not only waste the time of legitimate Apple customers and annoy the underpaid, already hassled Mac Geniuses, but also prove to be a futile effort on behalf of the anti-DRM crusaders, because DRM isn't really the fault of the Apple Geniuses, or even of Apple per se.

Apple is more or less just trying to make do with what the labels will allow it to do. Sure, Apple could put more pressure on them to allow DRM-free music and movies, but really, pestering the 20-year-old Apple Genius at the mall isn't going to have much effect.

—DAVID DAHLQUIST

BUSINESS

Steve Ballmer Sets His Sights on Apple—Again

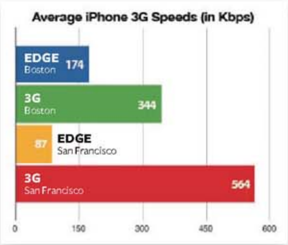
As much as Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer blusters about Apple, he did have something good to say in a recent memo to Microsoft employees.

"In the competition between PCs and Macs, we outsell Apple 30-to-1. But they [Apple] are good at providing an experience that is narrow but complete, while our commitment to choice often comes with some compromises to the end-to-end experience. Today, we're changing the way we work with hardware vendors to ensure that we can provide complete experiences with absolutely no compromises. We'll do the same with phones."

That's a pretty fair assessment of one of Apple's key strengths, but can a company so big turn nimbly enough on its feet to confront a target that's speeding by it?—**DAN MOREN**

IPHONE

Not So Fast, 3G



You can't miss the slogan—it's plastered everywhere: "Twice as fast. Half the price." It's Apple's attempt to drive home the point about the 3G wireless speeds of the iPhone 3G. But is 3G really twice as fast? Definitely. Maybe.

After a reader reported that his 3G speeds in the Boston area (where I live) were a mere shadow of those that AT&T and Apple were touting, I did some tests of my own, using software on the iPhone and a few Web sites. The results were... intriguing. While AT&T's 3G network has very good coverage in the Metro Boston area, according to the company's coverage map, some of my tests showed 3G to be downright slower than the EDGE network.

For comparison, I asked a colleague at *Macworld*'s San Francisco headquarters to perform the same tests, and he found better 3G speeds but worse EDGE speeds. Our tests were hardly scientific, but they do put Apple's claims in a different light. The upshot? Your results may (and probably will) vary.—**DAN MOREN**

Apple Is Full of Good IDEAs

Apple and design go together like Han Solo and Chewbacca, so we're not exactly shocked to discover that Apple walked out of the 2008 International Design Excellence Awards (IDEA) with three gold medals and one silver medal.

The contest, which is sponsored by *BusinessWeek* and run by the Industrial Designers Society of America, gives out awards in 17 categories. In the past five years, Apple has won a total of 13 awards, second only to Samsung (which has won 15) in the Corporation division. This year, Apple tied for second place among corporations for awards won, though it snagged the most gold medals in the entire contest.

So what caught the jury's eye this year? The MacBook Air, the Apple Wireless Keyboard, and the iPhone all took home top honors, while the Aluminum iMac netted a silver medal. The *BusinessWeek* story said, "The second big trend in 2008 was the return to minimalism and elegance. Apple's gold-winning MacBook Air laptop and iPhone best represented this trend." Not too shabby. Simplicity and elegance are the watchwords of good design—which means that next year maybe Apple will grab a prize for Jonny Ive's haircut.—**DAN MOREN**

PRODUCT WATCH

HARDWARE

IntelliScanner Pro 200, from IntelliScanner (www.intelliscanner.com): Inventory-management system includes both a barcode reader and software ($199).

UltraLite-mk3, from MOTU (www.motu.com): Bus-powered FireWire audio interface features onboard effects and mixing, XLR/TRS combo mic inputs with preamps, and true hi-Z guitar inputs ($599).

Mint 220 Digital Music Station, from Digital Signature (www.mintds.com): iPod speaker system also streams audio from a computer up to 45 feet from the host system ($180).

Exilim Zoom EX-Z150, from Casio (www.casio.com): 8-megapixel camera includes antishake and face-detection features ($200).

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> *"The pricetag on the new UPS is $99.99. While I'm not in the habit of endorsing products in this blog, if you're in the market for a workstation-class UPS, why not opt for the greener option?"*
>
> *- Heather Clancy, ZDNet.com*

In fact, while protecting your power supply, we're up to 5 times more energy efficient than any other solution. By saving you $40 a year in energy costs, our Back-UPS ES pays for itself in 2 short years. The high frequency, low copper design has a smaller transformer and environmental footprint. Even the packaging has been carefully selected and manufactured to maximize use of recycled materials and minimize waste.

In this world, every decision you make counts. So protect your power with a battery backup that works to protect the environment. It conserves power, it pays for itself, and it's backed by APC's 20-plus years of Legendary Reliability®. For more information on this or our other great products, or for information about environmentally responsible disposal of your old battery, visit ***www.apc.com***

2008

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*Average savings are based on comparable competitive models, and are comprised of two energy saving features: an ultra efficient electrical design, and the master/controlled outlets feature.

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iPhone Central

Everything you need to know about Apple's digital communications device

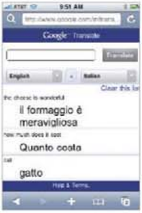
Jobs Confirms iPhone Application 'Kill Switch'

Amid recent speculation that Apple had incorporated some form of application blacklist into the iPhone 3G, Steve Jobs confirmed to the *Wall Street Journal* that such a capability exists, but argued that Apple needs it in case it inadvertently allows a malicious program—one that steals users' personal data, for example—to be distributed to iPhones through the App Store.

"Hopefully we never have to pull that lever," Jobs said, "but we would be irresponsible not to have a lever like that to pull."

While such a function might very well be necessary to prevent malicious applications, it may also raise the risk factor from other malicious vectors if it isn't well secured. There's also the question of what "malicious" entails. What if an application simply violates AT&T's terms of service, for example? I'm guessing that's a can of worms Apple doesn't want to open just yet.

—DAN MOREN



the cheese is wonderful

Il formaggio è meravigliosa

how much does it cost

Quanto costa

cat

gatto

Google Translate Now Comes in iPhone Version

Sure, your iPhone can surf the Web and get your e-mail, but did you know it'll also let you speak in tongues? Thanks to Google, you can now keep handy phrases from more than a dozen languages at your fingertips. Google has created an iPhone- and iPod touch–specific version of its Google Translate Web site (translate.google.com), just for those of us who love to tote around our iDevices while traveling overseas. The interface was created by two Google engineers in the "20 percent" time that Google allocates to its employees for their personal projects. The Google Translate Web application allows bidirectional translation between languages, including Chinese, French, Swedish, German, and—of course—English.**—DAN MOREN**

iPHONE EXPANDS ITS REACH TO 20 MORE COUNTRIES

As we go to press with this month's issue, the iPhone 3G is set to launch in 20 additional countries as of August 22. Reports indicate that Spain-based Telefónica will launch iPhone service in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Peru, and Uruguay. América Móvil is expected to add Paraguay and Honduras to the list. Bharti Airtel announced it will launch service in India; O2 is adding the Czech Republic; TeliaSonera subsidiary EMT will sell iPhones in Estonia; Orange and Era will release the iPhone in Poland; Orange will also roll out the iPhone in Romania; Globe Telecom is bringing the iPhone to the Philippines; and T-Mobile will be the official distributor in Hungary. And according to a report from Reuters, Singapore is also on the list of countries set to launch the iPhone 3G.

—DAN MOREN

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF APPLE

PRODUCT WATCH

HARDWARE

Photo Safe II, from Digital Foci (www.digitalfoci.com): Portable picture storage device backs up photos from a variety of memory cards (80GB, $139; 160GB, $189).

SimpleTech re-drive, from Fabrik (www.fabrik.com): Power-efficient 500GB external hard drive has a case made of bamboo and recycled aluminum ($160).

Turn ambitions into actions

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Download LLC application

Research travel insurance

☑ See the Grand Canal in Venice

Book flights

Order Italian phrase book

Interview housesitter

Call Kristin about web project

Call for lawn care quote

Buy plug adaptor

Pick up dry cleaning

Apple Design Award
iPhone Developer Showcase
2008 Winner

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BUSINESS

Inexpensive PCs Help Widen Mac-PC Price Gap

According to market-research firm NPD Group, the gap in average selling prices between Macs and PCs has widened over the last couple of years. This June, Mac desktops cost an average of $1,543, up from $1,432 two years ago; meanwhile, PCs were essentially stable at $550. On the laptop front, the difference is smaller: $1,515 for Macs ($60 less than in June 2006) versus $700 for PCs (down from $877).

Of course, the average sale price for PCs includes cut-rate, low-end systems, which Apple doesn't offer.—**THOMAS GAGNON-VAN LEEUWEN**

ITUNES

Your Music, All around You

Apple has filed a patent on a way for iPhone and iPod touch users to access their iTunes libraries from anywhere they can get a network connection. The sneaky system would sync metadata (track names, artists, and so on), so it would appear as though your portable device were full of all the great music that you enjoy listening to. Such technology would continue the MobileMe trend of turning your hardware device into a window on your data, wherever it's stored.—**DAN MOREN**

By the Numbers

312
Number of Mac Pros going into Virginia Tech's latest Mac-based supercomputer.

3
Days Apple said it took the company to sell 1 million iPhone 3Gs.

$1.07 billion
Apple's reported profit for the third fiscal quarter of 2008.

Belight SOFTWARE
www.belightsoft.com
Disc Cover
Create CD/DVD labels and covers
Your kids won't forgive this

my kid's photos '07

INTERNET

Delta Bringing Wi-Fi to All U.S. Planes

In the continuing battle to bring the Internet to the skies, Delta plans to add Wi-Fi access on some of its planes this fall, and to its entire domestic fleet (more than 330 planes) by the summer of 2009.

The partnership with Aircell's GoGo Internet service will cost $10 on flights of three hours or less, $13 on longer flights. Passengers will be able to surf the Web and check e-mail, and will have access to instant messaging, corporate VPN, and text-message services, but they won't be able to make phone calls.—**KATE MARSHALL**

iPOD

Why Are iPod Accessories So Darn Pricey?

iPod
Music
Videos
Photos
Podcasts
Extras
Settings
Shuffle Songs
Now Playing
MENU

Ever wonder why a lot of iPod and iPhone accessories seem kind of, well, overpriced? *Popular Mechanics* reports that Apple uses a proprietary authentication chip in its portables that makes it impossible for third-party companies to create iPod- and iPhone-compatible accessories without signing an often-costly agreement with Apple (see macworld.com/3818).

For instance, I could go on eBay and buy a generic $2 video cable that would work just fine with my iPod video. New iPhones and iPods, however, require the "officially licensed" Apple cables, and these can run up to $50.

Needless to say, the chip not only increases prices, but forces accessory companies to cut corners and cheapen production to pay for the Apple license while maintaining a consumer-friendly price point.

Of course, it's understandable that Apple would want to have some control over the quality of accessories designed for its products, but most of the manufacturers interviewed for the article estimated that up to $20 of the retail cost of iPod and iPhone speakers is directly attributable to fees levied by Apple. Ouch.—**DAVID DAHLQUIST**

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PEOPLE

Apple Wheels In Segway CTO

You know, if there's one thing that my Mac lacks, it is most certainly wheels. Perhaps that will all change now that Apple has reputedly hired Doug Field, the CTO and VP of design and engineering for Segway—that's right, the company responsible for the little two-wheeled sucker that was supposed to change the entire world, but has mainly become a way for superrich non-equestrians to play the ever-popular sport of kings, polo.

According to a post on the SegwayChat forums, Field has been hired on as a VP of Product Design at Apple—designing what, we're not sure, though we are now braced for the inevitable onslaught of "Apple's making a personal transport device!" rumors.

What potential project could draw Segway's CTO to Cupertino? I have my theories, and they involve gyroscopes.—**DAN MOREN**

INTERNET

U.S. Poised for Broadband Explosion

The United States has fallen behind on broadband penetration, but that will change in the next four years—at least according to a report from market-research firm Gartner. In 2012, 77 percent of all American households will be accessing the Internet via broadband, compared with 54 percent in 2007, the report says.

Gartner's analysts have put together a list of 17 countries that will all have penetration levels exceeding 60 percent in 2012. The United States will share fifth place with Japan, which will see equally impressive growth.

Key to the large growth in the United States will be a combination of lower prices and increased interest as customers currently on dial-up move to broadband.—**MIKAEL RICKNÄS**

Activity Monitor

University of Amsterdam student Michiel van Meeteren's thesis, *Indie Fever*, is about Mac developers
macworld.com/3811

Tom's Hardware tests solid-state hard drives (SSDs) to determine if they save battery life
macworld.com/3812

CNet argues that the FCC may not have authority over Comcast's violations of Net Neutrality
macworld.com/3813

ETHERNET CABLE PHOTOGRAPH BY NICOLAS RAYMOND

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HARDWARE

Reattack of the Clones

It was no surprise when Apple filed a lawsuit against wannabe Mac maker Psystar. What *is* a surprise is that another company, Open Tech, has announced its new lineup of desktop PCs—and is supporting Mac OS X as an operating system option.

Open Tech, however, is approaching the clone concept with a seemingly safer strategy than Psystar: it isn't offering to preinstall OS X or even include a copy. The company will just give you a clean computer (starting at $620) and provide the instructions for how to install OS X yourself. The Open Tech Home includes a 2.53GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor, while the Open Tech XT includes a 2.4GHz Intel Core Quad processor.

Ultimately, the differences between Open Tech and Psystar are irrelevant. What is relevant is the growing desire for hardware independence from Apple—the willingness of these companies to go face-to-face with the Sith of Apple Legal and fight for their right to survive, or get sued out of existence.—**DAN POURHADI**

WEB

Jobs Admits MobileMe's Shortcomings

In an e-mail to Apple employees, CEO Steve Jobs said that the company had made numerous mistakes during the launch of its MobileMe Internet service, saying that it "was simply not up to Apple's standards."

MobileMe's launch was fraught with problems, including a long initial downtime, an extended e-mail outage in which users lost messages, the inability to contact the service to sync, corruption of data, time delays in syncing the computer to MobileMe, and more. "It was a mistake to launch MobileMe at the same time as iPhone 3G, iPhone 2.0 software and the App Store," Jobs wrote.—**JIM DALRYMPLE**

MUSIC

Yahoo Shutters Music Store, Throws Away DRM Keys

DRM, when will you learn? As we heard earlier this year, Yahoo Music, one of the first major music vendors to experiment with dropping digital rights management, will be shutting down its independent digital music service. And it'll be taking its DRM license servers offline as of September 30. This means all the music anyone bought from Yahoo Music will be unplayable after that date.

Several days after making the announcement, Yahoo did finally say it would offer refunds to people who purchased music from its service (the company also plans to move accounts from its subscription service over to RealNetworks' Rhapsody). Death to DRM, we say.—**DAN MOREN**

Tech Trends

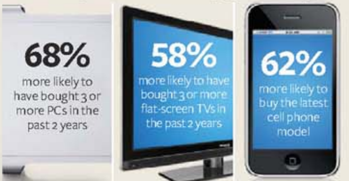
Techie Traits

New research by Mindset Media finds that avid technology consumers share a common set of traits. Of the 25,000 online consumers surveyed, those who snap up the latest gadgets are also likely to be leadership oriented, dynamic, and assertive.—MARYANN JONES THOMPSON

Those scoring highest for . . .

LEADERSHIP **DYNAMISM** **ASSERTIVENESS**

. . . tend to buy more of the following types of tech gear



Sources: Mindset Media and Nielsen Online

PRODUCT WATCH

SOFTWARE

SlickFX, from Gee Three (www.geethree.com): Plug-in set for Final Cut Express and Final Cut Pro includes more than 60 transitions, effects, filters, and generators ($99).

Money 3, from Jumsoft (www.jumsoft.com): Financial application features a new user interface, five styles of invoices, and the ability to download exchange rates from the Internet ($39; upgrade, $19).

ClickInstall, from Excel Software (www.excelsoftware.com): Installer-making software builds OS X compressed, password-protected, self-extracting installers (prices starting at $295 for a single license).

Finale 2009, from MakeMusic (www.finalemusic.com): Updated music-notation software streamlines workflow, adds multiple-page editing, and expands support for SmartMusic ($600).

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Hot Stuff

What we're raving about this month

PMOG

Looking to add some spice to your mundane Web-browsing life? Then check out the Passively Multiplayer Online Game (PMOG). Produced by GameLayers, this free extension for the Firefox Web browser puts Net surfers into a massively multiplayer online role-playing game (MMORPG)—all tied to their normal browsing habits. For each new Web site a player visits in a day, he or she earns *datapoints*, PMOG's currency, which the player can use to purchase a variety of useful items. In addition, PMOG offers six major *associations*, each with its own perks, and user-created *missions*—chains of Web sites linked by a common thread. The combination of all these elements produces an experience that will never let you look at Web browsing the same way again (pmog.com).—**BLAIR HANLEY FRANK**

Selphy CP770

A tisket, a tasket . . . a printer in a basket? The compact Selphy CP770, Canon's latest portable dye-sub photo printer, promises long-lasting, borderless prints that are ready in less than a minute. You can print from a variety of sources, including your computer, memory cards, and digital cameras. But the coolest thing about the $149 CP770 is the design. Looking more like something that would hold my kids' beach toys, the bright yellow Selphy sits snugly inside the top of its own carrying case—a basket with a handle, large enough to hold extra photo paper, ink cassettes, an AC adapter, and even the optional $80 battery pack (www.usa.canon.com).—**JAMES GALBRAITH**

Precipitate

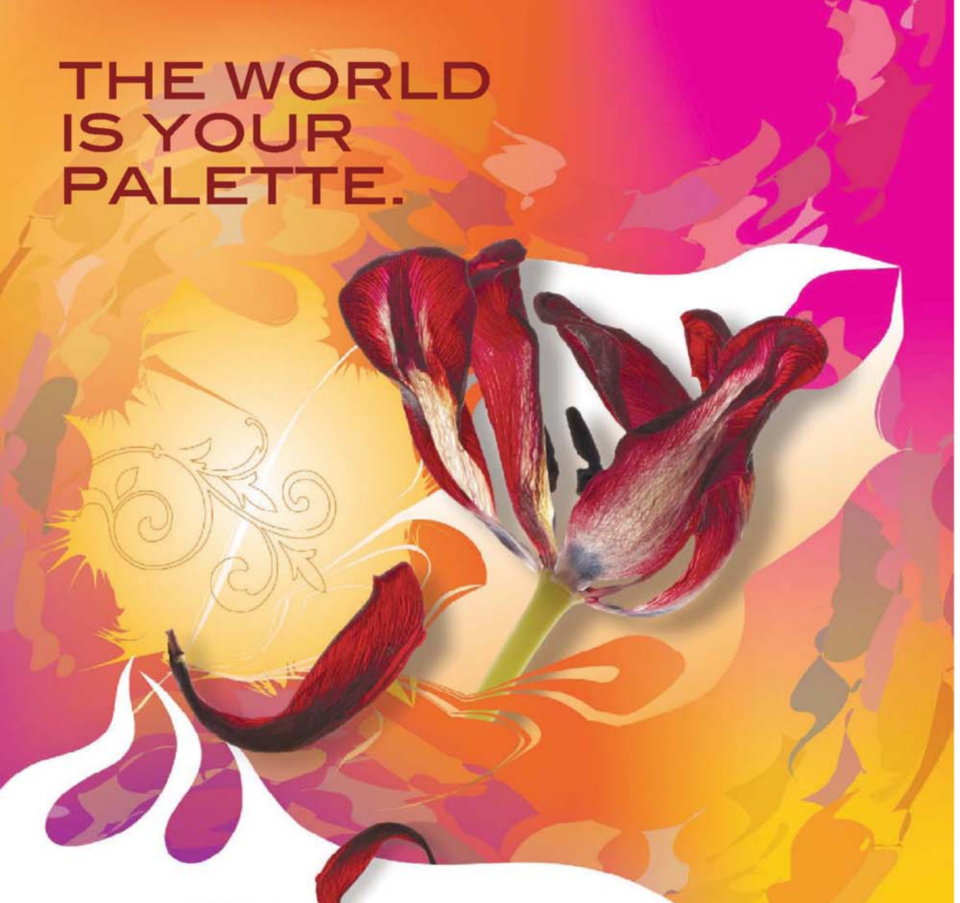
Spotlight's pretty good at helping you locate that document you wrote last week, even one you saved in some weird place, with a nonsensical file name. But what about documents that aren't on your computer? More and more people are relying on Web-based programs, such as Google Docs, to work on files in a collaborative environment. Thanks to the free, open-source preference pane Precipitate, you can search your Google Docs or Google Bookmarks directly from Spotlight or with Google Desktop (macworld.com/3775).—**DAN MOREN**

PhotoBook 1.1

In recent months, I've come to rely on my friends for photographing events. Carrying a camera around is often a pain, and most pictures end up on Facebook anyway. But right now, they usually *stay* on Facebook, which means by the time the next big social networking site comes along, I won't have them saved anywhere else. That's where Caffeinated Cocoa Software's PhotoBook 1.1 (payment requested) comes in. PhotoBook is basically a desktop Facebook photo browser. You can view your albums and photos, or those of your friends (as long as those friends allow third-party applications access to their photos via their Facebook Privacy pages) in an intuitive, iPhoto-like interface. It filters your searches as you type (similar to iPhoto), and it can even display photo slide shows, complete with transitions. But it's the ability to quickly import selected photos or even entire albums into iPhoto with a single click that's a real boon. Granted, the quality isn't great, but it's better than losing those memories forever (www.caffeinatedcocoa.com).—**THOMAS GAGNON-VAN LEEUWEN**

SlimKey V2

A convenient design element of current iMacs and Apple Cinema Displays is the small platform on the base for storing your keyboard. Macessity takes this concept a step further with its $65 SlimKey V2, an iMac- and Cinema Display–matching aluminum stand. Only 1.1 inches high, it provides just enough space underneath to store Apple's aluminum keyboard when you're not using it, and it gives you a wide (18.5 by 9 inches), sturdy (supporting up to 35 pounds) platform for your iMac or display, as well as for smaller peripherals such as hard drives or satellite speakers. Even better, the SlimKey V2 includes a side-facing, easy-access USB 2.0 hub with four powered ports (www.macessity.com).—**DAN FRAKES**



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Reviews

AT&T
9:53 AM
New
What's Hot
Alazar GmbH & Co. KG
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FREE
120 reviews
Seventy Nine Lines
PegJump
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181 reviews
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Updates

Answering the Call

A huge variety of iPhone apps flood Apple's iTunes Store

Apple has taken the brakes off third-party development for the iPhone, and as a result, aficionados have seen a vast profusion of new software for their favorite device. Developers are putting out small, mostly inexpensive or free iPhone applications—from leisure and lifestyle tools to games to productivity programs to news and information apps—faster than Apple can post them to the new iPhone App Store. We take a look at some of the first and most interesting and appealing iPhone programs out there. The list is growing daily, so be sure to check Macworld.com for the latest reviews.

Lifestyle
Page 37

Games
Page 38

Business and Productivity
Page 42

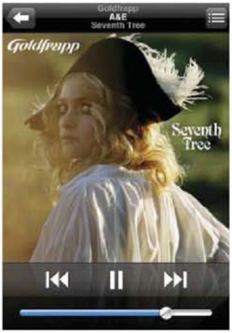
AT&T
9:54 AM
Top Paid
Top Free
The Blimp Pilots
1. Koi Pond
$0.99
Matt Coneybeare
2. Ambiance
$0.99
Nico Bechere
3. Face Melter
$1.99
Apple Inc.
4. Texas Hold'em
$4.99
1035 reviews
Retronyms
5. Recorder
$0.99
Featured
Categories
Top 25
Search
Updates

TOP PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER BELANGER; BOTTOM PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF APPLE

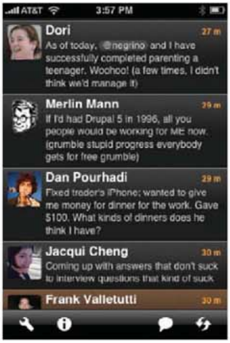
Lifestyle

Remote

●●●●½; free; Apple, www.apple.com



Install Apple's Remote application on an iPhone or iPod touch, and the device's touch screen becomes an impressive remote control for operating an Apple TV, or iTunes running on a computer, located on the same local network. (Your iPhone or iPod touch must be connected to that network via Wi-Fi.) Remote's interface looks much like the iPhone's iPod application. At the bottom of the screen are Playlist, Artists, Albums, Search, and More buttons; the latter displays a screen with Audiobooks, Composers, Genres, Movies, Music Videos, Podcasts, Songs, and TV Shows—you actually get more options here than in the iPod application. Remote works well with iTunes, but it's a godsend for the Apple TV—especially if you have a massive music collection. Remote's biggest shortcomings are that you can't use it to browse the iTunes Store, nor can you initiate playback of an iTunes-rented movie you haven't yet transferred to your Apple TV (macworld.com/3760).—**DAN FRAKES**



Dori 27 m
As of today, @negrino and I have successfully completed parenting a teenager. Woohoo! (a few times, I didn't think we'd manage it)

Merlin Mann 29 m
If I'd had Drupal 5 in 1996, all you people would be working for ME now. (grumble stupid progress everybody gets for free grumble)

Dan Pourhadi 29 m
Fixed trader's iPhone; wanted to give me money for dinner for the work. Gave $100. What kinds of dinners does he think I have?

Jacqui Cheng 30 m
Coming up with answers that don't suck to interview questions that kind of suck.

Frank Valletutti 30 m

Twitterrific

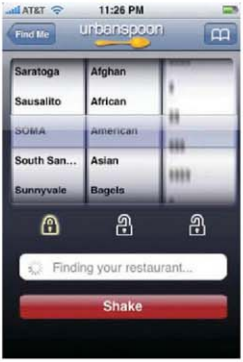
●●●●; free; ad-free premium version, $10; The Iconfactory, iconfactory.com

Twitterrific is a popular Mac client for the Twitter social-messaging service. It displays *tweets*—new messages—from your contacts and lets you send tweets. It includes integration with TwitPic (www.twitpic.com), so you can take a photo (or pick one from your photo library), and the program will automatically upload it and embed its URL in your tweet. Twitterrific's embedded Web browser lets you tap on user names or hyperlinks and view the contents without having to switch to Safari. The interface is excellent, combining simplicity with solid functionality. But there's still plenty of room for Twitterrific to grow, especially given the tough competition offered by several excellent iPhone-optimized Twitter Web interfaces, most notably Hahlo (www.hahlo.com). On the downside, Twitterrific can't display all the messages from a given friend, nor does it let you filter tweets so you see only your direct messages, replies to your tweets, or a list of your own recent tweets (macworld.com/3748).—**JASON SNELL**

Urbanspoon

●●●; free; Urbanspoon, www.urbanspoon.com

Ever find yourself in an unfamiliar neighborhood when hunger pangs set in? Tired of eating at the same old neighborhood places? Try your luck with Urbanspoon. This quirky program puts a Vegas spin on selecting a nearby eatery. Launch Urbanspoon and let the program pinpoint your current location. The next screen resembles a slot machine with three spinning wheels: one filled with nearby neighborhoods, another with food categories, and a third with prices ranging from one to four dollar signs. Now comes the fun part. Gently shake your iPhone and the wheels start spinning. When the wheels stop, you'll be given the name of a recommended restaurant that fits the selected criteria. Don't like the result? Shake again. Tap on the blue arrow to the right of a restaurant's name to get the phone number, address, and percentage of Urbanspoon members who gave it a positive review. One serious flaw is that the application forgets your settings and restaurant results any time you switch to another program, so be sure to e-mail selections to yourself first (macworld.com/3755).—**KELLY TURNER**

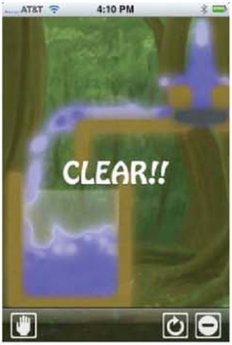


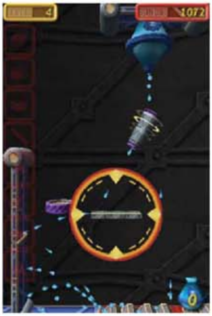
Games

Aqua Forest

●●●½; $8; Hudson, www.dothehudson.net

The iPhone's touch control and accelerometer (which registers the change in orientation from horizontal to vertical) enable it to support many innovative game designs. One of the coolest is Hudson Software's Aqua Forest, which is part puzzle game and part free-form creative tool. Using a unique physics engine, Aqua Forest mimics how water, solids, and gases behave and simulates the actions of objects with different physical characteristics. A built-in set of painting tools lets you create a number of interesting effects. It's thoroughly amazing (macworld.com/3753).—PETER COHEN





Enigmo

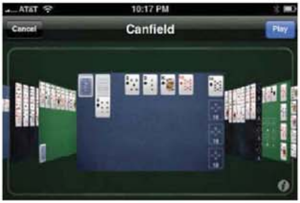
●●●●½; $10; Pangea Software, www.pangeasoft.net

Enigmo is a physics-based 3-D puzzle game in which you manipulate various objects—slides, bumpers, cannons, and such—to send cascading streams of flowing liquid from one vessel to another. Enigmo takes advantage of the iPhone's Multi-Touch pinch control to let you zoom in and out of action. The game's 50 levels get progressively more difficult, with more obstacles, puzzle pieces, and different fluids. Some of the puzzle pieces can be a little confusing to use, and some of the levels could use balancing to make them less difficult, but even so, the game is a lot of fun (macworld.com/3763).—PC

Mondo Solitaire

●●●½; $10; Ambrosia, www.ambrosiasw.com

Mondo Solitaire offers more than 100 solitaire card games—from old standbys like Klondike and Canfield to more obscure varieties. If you're unfamiliar with some games, Mondo Solitaire includes a basic help screen that will explain to you how to play the game. The cards are easy to read, and Ambrosia lets you customize the card backs and background themes. If you need to see a card better, hold your finger on it for a moment to magnify it. You can manage most operations with a single touch—tap on the card, and it'll go where it's supposed to. Moving piles of cards is a bit trickier and requires some precision. First you have to tap on the pile (or portion) you want to move; a paper clip surrounds that pile. Then you drag and drop the pile to its new location. The graphics and animation are quite lovely, but they're also slow and stuttering. Hopefully Ambrosia will remedy these drawbacks in an update (macworld.com/3757).—PC



Sudoku Rules

Within days of the App Store's debut, 18 Sudoku games for the iPhone and iPod touch appeared. We tried them all and chose a worthy few. For full reviews of each of these programs, go to macworld.com/3756.

Big Bang Sudoku 1.1

●●●½; $5; Freeverse, www.freeverse.com

Freeverse's Big Bang Sudoku continues the company's trend of producing campy but attractive games. Its approach to data-entry is best for notating one number at a time rather than one cell at a time.

Sudoku 1.0.13

●●●●; $8; Electronic Arts, www.ea.com

The iPhone version of Electronic Arts' Sudoku is nearly identical to the older iPod version—except that you enter numbers using the touch screen instead of a Click Wheel. It has gorgeous graphics and 10,000 unique games.

Sudoku Vol.1 1.0

●●●●; $6; Hudson, www.dothehudson.net

Hudson Entertainment's Sudoku Vol. 1 is perhaps the best Sudoku application for beginners, thanks to a tutorial mode and features aimed at beginners.—DAN FRAKES

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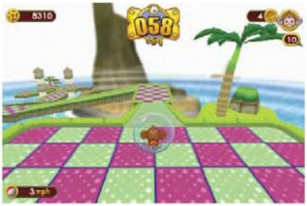


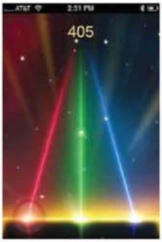
Super Monkey Ball

🖱🖱🖱½; $10; Sega of America, www.sega.com

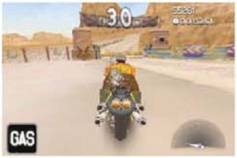
Super Monkey Ball is a 3-D racing game featuring monkeys inside transparent balls that race along on suspended tracks. Tip the iPhone left, right, up, and down to make your monkey move. The more you tilt, the steeper the angle, and the faster the monkey rolls. Go too fast in one direction, and your monkey may go sailing off the edge into the abyss with a sad wail (macworld.com/3762).—**PC**

Tap Tap Revenge

🖱🖱🖱🖱; free; Tapulous, www.tapulous.com



The goal in Tap Tap Revenge is to tap at the bottom of the screen to pop bubbles as they descend from three colored beams of light that snap and crackle with energy. The more bubbles you can pop in time, the higher your score. You will also get points for shaking the iPhone or iPod touch in time with arrows descending those light beams. A two-player mode pits players against each other on one device (at either end of the screen). The game includes a handful of music tracks but no way of linking to your iTunes library, so the music selection gets old quickly. But the four game levels keep your fingers tapping (macworld.com/3761).—**PC**



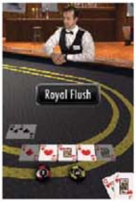
Wingnuts Moto Racer

🖱🖱🖱🖱; $10; Freeverse, www.freeverse.com

Wingnuts Moto Racer is an excellent debut game from Freeverse. In Moto Racer, you hop on the back of a roaring motorcycle and race across various landscapes. You're playing against the clock, using an on-screen Gas button to accelerate as you bank your bike to the left and right by tilting the iPhone. Occasionally you'll need to dodge a car or punch out a rival biker-gang member trying to unseat you—when the other bikers get close, a Punch button appears that lets you take a swing. You have to take your thumb off the gas to do this—an awkward maneuver (macworld.com/3758).—**PC**

Texas Hold'em for iPhone

🖱🖱🖱🖱½; $5; Apple, www.apple.com



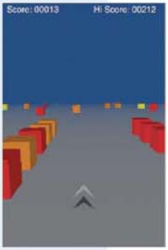
As good as Texas Hold'em for the iPod was, Texas Hold'em for iPhone blows it away. The iPhone version's graphics are top-notch, featuring ten locations with progressively higher buy-ins. The characters you play against look great: their movements are much smoother, more realistic, and more complex than in the original iPod version. A multiplayer option lets you play against as many as eight other live iPhone or iPod touch users over a Wi-Fi network (macworld.com/3751).—**JONATHAN SEFF**

Best Free Games

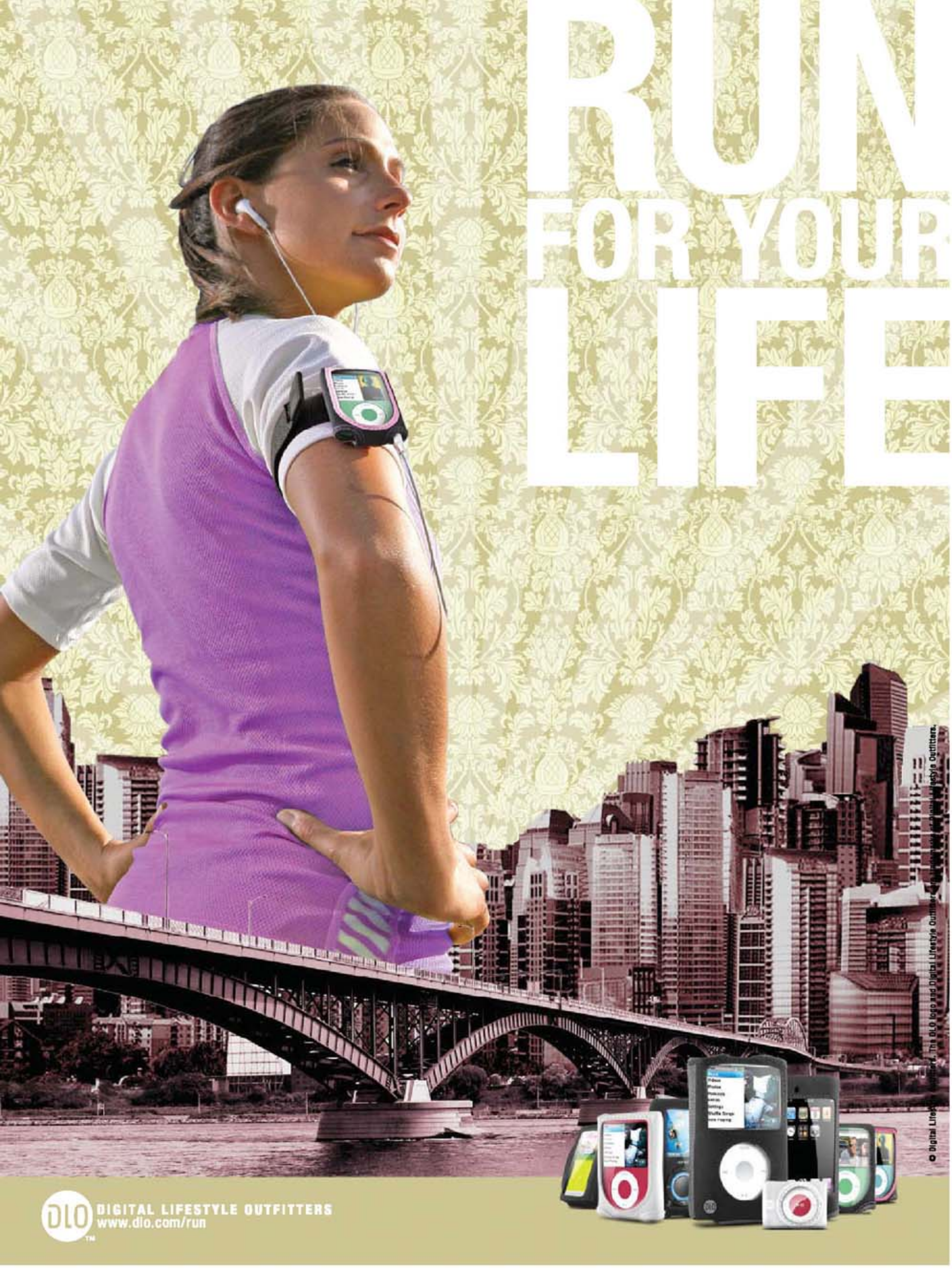
Now that the App Store has launched, games are the single biggest category of iPhone and iPod touch applications, and the vast majority of them cost something—some as little as 99 cents, some as much as $10. But you can download a number of really cool games that won't cost you a penny (see macworld.com/3765).

Advent (by Pi-Soft Consulting) What would iPhone and iPod touch games be without a rendition of Colossal Cave, the original Adventure game? True to form, this is an entirely text-driven adventure, so it requires that you input directions and commands via the iPhone's keyboard, which can get tiring quickly. But still, it's a fun bit of nostalgia that's sure to please old-school gamers.

Blip Solitaire (by Maverick Software) It's rough around the edges and not very pretty to look at, but Blip Solitaire demonstrates a really neat idea inspired by Apple's touch-screen interface. Imagine playing a game of Pong by yourself, but instead of hitting the ball against a solid wall, handball-style, you're revolving around a central axis, moving your finger to use your paddle.



Cube Runner (by Andy Qua) If you've ever played the old vector-based *Star Wars* coin-op arcade game that came out in the 1980s, Cube Runner might remind you of the sequence where you're flying across the surface of the Death Star evading enemy turrets. Cube Runner doesn't have any pyrotechnics or shooting—your goal is to dodge the landscape of cubes for as long as you can. Multiple difficulty levels and downloadable level packs keep things interesting.—PETER COHEN



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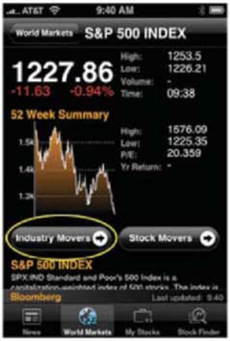
Business and Productivity

Bloomberg 1.1

★★★★½; free; Bloomberg, www.bloomberg.com

Bloomberg is widely considered a trusted and solid source of company and market financial information. This application brings Bloomberg's expertise to the iPhone. Bloomberg's main screen presents finance-related headlines, along with the date and time of each story's last update. Tapping on a headline takes you to the story. Back on the news page, buttons at the bottom of the screen show a summary of the world's financial markets, open a stock finder, and display your stock portfolio (you can enter owned share numbers and purchase costs, too). Unfortunately, there doesn't seem to be a way to save or e-mail stories you find interesting. Overall, Bloomberg works well, providing a ton of useful financial data without intrusive advertisements (macworld.com/3752).—**ROB GRIFFITHS**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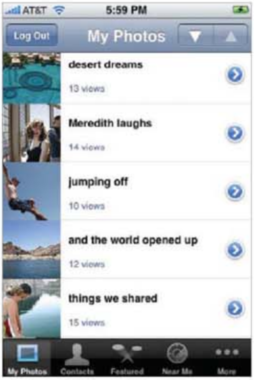
SPX:IND Standard and Poor's 500 Index is a capitalization-weighted index of 500 stocks. The index is

Exposure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Meredith laughs
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jumping off
10 views
and the world opened up
12 views
things we shared
15 views
My Photos
Contacts
Featured
Near Me
More

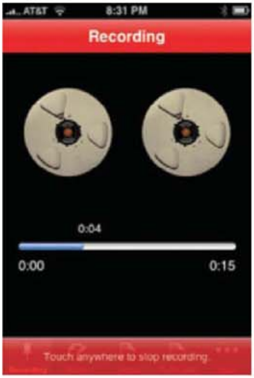
★★★★; free; ad-free premium version, $10; Connected Flow, www.connectedflow.com

Connected Flow's Exposure puts the world of Flickr, Yahoo's popular photo-sharing service, at your fingertips, with an intuitive interface that makes it easy to show off your own photos and explore the latest snapshots from your friends and the larger Flickr community. Exposure is a Flickr browser; it doesn't upload photos from your iPhone. The main page displays your personal photos as a list; each entry shows a small thumbnail, the photo's title, and the number of views it has received. Buttons along the bottom of the screen let you explore photos from your contacts or from the larger Flickr community. You can also search your photos by tags or photo sets, or search all of Flickr. One particularly intriguing option is the Near Me feature. Tap on this button, and Exposure will use your current location to find images tagged with nearby longitudinal and latitudinal coordinates. The program's intuitive interface makes it easy to navigate your online collections without having to tap too many times. However, I wish you could see whether a photo has comments without having to switch to the detail view. I was also frustrated by the fact that titles longer than 24 characters or so get cut off. And there's no easy way to search within a Flickr group or to see which groups a photo belongs to (macworld.com/3764).—**KT**

Jott

★★★; free; Jott Networks, www.jott.com

Jott, a note-taking tool tied to a Web-based service, lets you access your iPhone-created notes from anywhere you have a phone or Internet access. That is a great plus, and Jott adds another bonus—with just a couple of taps, you can use your iPhone to record your voice. You can categorize your recordings into groups and mark them with a swipe of your finger. First you'll need a free Jott account. After you speak into your iPhone to create a note, Jott sends that note to its server, where the audio is converted to text and then synced back to your iPhone. Mostly, this process worked, but occasionally the iPhone displayed a "waiting on transcription" message, and sometimes I saw that message twice for one recording. An update promises a bug fix. Beyond the application, you can use Jott's toll-free number to record upcoming tasks. But Jott doesn't talk to the iPhone's calendar, so you can't connect a note to a calendar item. You also can't send a Jott-created note directly via e-mail on the iPhone (macworld.com/3754).—**RG**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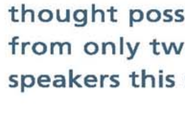

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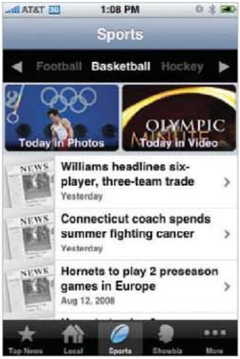


Williams headlines six-player, three-team trade
Yesterday

Connecticut coach spends summer fighting cancer
Yesterday

Hornets to play 2 preseason games in Europe
Aug 12, 2008

Mobile News Network

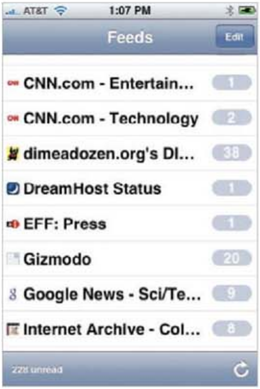
♦♦♦½; free; The Associated Press, www.ap.org

Mobile News Network is the iPhone adaptation of the familiar AP news feed. A tap on the icon (a brown fedora hat) launches the program. Mobile News Network then displays a selection of top headlines, sometimes along with a photo. At the bottom of the screen, buttons provide quick access to local, sports, and entertainment news. The Local feature can track news for a number of locations—just enter a zip code, and the program will convert it into a town's name. A button labeled More shows you additional categories and provides access to settings, a search engine, and saved articles. To read an article, just tap on its headline. You can also send an article to a friend via SMS or e-mail, save it for reading later, or (intriguingly) send the AP a report that updates the article, complete with an image if you have one (macworld.com/3759).—**RG**

NetNewsWire 1.0.7

♦♦♦½; free; NewsGator, www.newsgator.com

NetNewsWire lets you browse news feeds—live updated summaries of articles on Web sites. Launching the program displays a list of feeds you've subscribed to containing new (unread) articles; tapping on a feed shows a list of unread articles in that feed; tapping on an article's title displays a summary of the article. A built-in Web browser lets you read full articles without having to switch back and forth between NetNewsWire and Safari. As with all iPhone apps, NetNewsWire for iPhone currently can access the Internet only when it's the active app. On the other hand, it stores feed listings and article summaries on the iPhone so you can browse them offline. What sets NetNewsWire apart from other news readers is that it hooks into a NewsGator.com account for managing your RSS feeds across devices. The iPhone version also supports clippings, a nifty feature that lets you mark an article for reading later on your Mac or the NewsGator Web site, and syncs clippings between locations. NetNewsWire for iPhone is missing several features available via NewsGator's Web-based iPhone news reader, and some actions require more tapping than they should. But it's a solid program, and the developers have already announced a number of new features and improvements they plan to include in future updates (macworld.com/3749).—**DF**



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CNN.com - Technology	2
dimeadozen.org's DI...	38
DreamHost Status	1
EFF: Press	1
Gizmodo	20
Google News - Sci/Te...	9
Internet Archive - Col...	8

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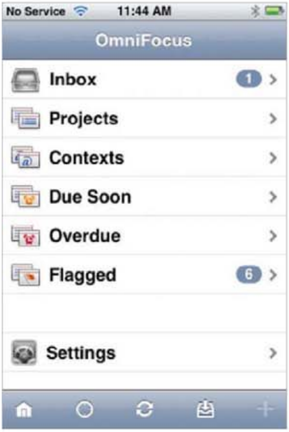

OmniFocus 1.0.1

♦♦♦½; $20; The Omni Group, www.omnigroup.com

OmniFocus, a Getting Things Done (GTD) productivity application, works like this: You create an action (a To-Do item) within OmniFocus's Inbox and enter a name for it; then you can assign it a Context (a location or environment in which you're likely to perform the task) and a Project. You can also assign start and due times to an action, flag it, and append a note to it. OmniFocus for iPhone attempts to leverage the iPhone's GPS capabilities with a Location feature that groups contexts based on their locale—but it's difficult to use. If you're looking for a way to create to-do items on your iPhone, OmniFocus for the iPhone can do it, but it's overkill. If, on the other hand, you seek a powerful (though sometimes challenging) mobile application for creating action items and organizing them within contexts and projects—and one that also acts as an extension of its even more powerful desktop companion program of the same name—OmniFocus for iPhone clearly fits the bill (macworld.com/3750).—**CHRISTOPHER BREEN**

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Mac Universal

macworld.com/reviews

What we're reviewing online this month

SOFTWARE

Acrobat 9 Pro △

RATING: ●●●● **PRICE:** $449; upgrade, $159
COMPANY: Adobe **URL:** www.adobe.com

Adobe Acrobat 9 Pro is a Portable Document Format (PDF) production tool; the latest version primarily streamlines document collaboration and review, and makes forms creation and distribution easier. The program has better support for embedded Flash and FLV Flash video, improved PDF version comparison, faster performance, and more. Acrobat 9 doesn't have many enhancements for creative and print workflows, but business workgroups will definitely want to consider this version (macworld.com/3766).

ClamXav 1.1 △

RATING: ●●●◐ **PRICE:** payment requested
COMPANY: Mark Allan **URL:** www.clamxav.com

ClamXav 1.1 doesn't come out ahead if you compare its features, speed, and usability with those of commercial antivirus programs that cost more, but it does a good job of finding viruses. ClamXav is a graphical front end for the open-source ClamAV antivirus engine, often found running on Unix e-mail systems. Most important, its virus definitions are updated daily. When ClamXav is scanning for viruses, your Mac won't grind to a halt, but you'll encounter occasional sluggishness while switching and launching programs. ClamXav's interface can be confusing, but when it comes to virus detection, the application is just as accurate as commercial programs (macworld.com/3767).

Final Cut Server 1.1

RATING: ●●● **PRICE:** one server and ten users, $999; unlimited users, $1,999 **COMPANY:** Apple
URL: www.apple.com

Final Cut Server (FCS) is a complex and powerful tool designed for people who work in video production environments. The most readily usable features for most FCS users are the flexible and easy-to-use catalog and searching capabilities. FCS's version control requires you to check out projects so that you don't accidentally overwrite changes; and you can copy all of the necessary assets for a project to a given location when you want to work elsewhere. If you are comfortable with databases and scripting, FCS lets you create some amazingly powerful and useful workflows (macworld.com/3725).

MobileMe 1.0

RATING: ●●●◐ **PRICE:** $99 per year; family pack, $149 **COMPANY:** Apple **URL:** www.apple.com

Apple overhauled .Mac and rebranded it as MobileMe to accommodate the iPhone 3G's speedy Internet access. Despite the service's rocky start (it was frequently unavailable, and synchronization often didn't work properly), MobileMe comes closer to fulfilling .Mac's promise. MobileMe updates contacts and calendar events shortly after you make changes on your iPhone or online at me.com. Through the new me.com site, MobileMe gives you online access to your mail, contacts, calendars, Web gallery, and iDisk, as well as account settings. Me.com relies on advanced Web technologies to provide an interactive experience, such as letting you drag an event's top or bottom edge to change its time and duration. If you need up-to-the-minute access to important data on your iPhone or online, MobileMe is a great solution, but it isn't as compelling for casual users. For online storage, photo publishing, and Web-based e-mail, calendars, and contact management, alternatives such as Google's applications are cheaper. As for the service interruptions, MobileMe's reliability may improve over time—at least that's what we're hoping (macworld.com/3774).

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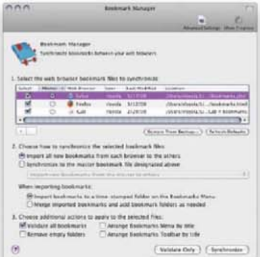

Internet Cleanup 5.0 △

RATING: ●●● **PRICE:** $30; upgrade, $20 **COMPANY:** Smith Micro Software **URL:** www.smithmicro.com

Smith Micro's Internet Cleanup provides a suite of tools to help you locate and delete traces of your Internet activities. The new Bookmark Manager lets you synchronize bookmarks among multiple browsers and optionally check the URLs to make sure the Web pages still exist, but the program doesn't identify and cull old or irrelevant bookmarks. Internet Cleanup can delete e-mail attachments, but it ignores IMAP and MobileMe accounts; Smith Micro is looking for a way to resolve this issue. If you use several browsers and prefer to delete all traces of your Internet activities en masse, Internet Cleanup can make the job easier (macworld.com/3768).

HARDWARE

G-Track

RATING: ●●●●◐ **PRICE:** $232 **COMPANY:** Samson Technologies **URL:** www.samsontech.com

This USB microphone is a directional mic that doesn't require any special drivers to operate. It has a gain knob that can lock into position, and an LED that glows green until you overpower the mic, at which point the LED turns red—a nice touch that makes it easy to adjust and test the gain. The mic sports an Inst knob control for connecting instruments such as an electric guitar, bass, or keyboard, or for recording a line-level input. The G-Track provides pleasing, balanced audio, as well as an acceptable amount of gain (macworld.com/3772).

Find It Online
For expanded reviews, type the blue URL at the end of each summary into your browser's address bar.

Hard Disk Designed by Neil Poulton 1TB

RATING: ●●●● **PRICE:** $230 **COMPANY:** LaCie **URL:** www.lacie.com

This desktop hard drive is encased in a shiny black rectangular box with sharp

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corners. The drive can connect to your Mac via FireWire 400, USB 2.0, or eSATA. When comparing the performance of the Neil Poulton drive's different connections, we found, as expected, that USB 2.0 was the slowest connection, producing times 6 to 20 percent slower than FireWire 400. The fastest performance was in our eSATA trials, with times 20 to 57 percent faster than FireWire 400 (macworld.com/3814).

MultiSync LCD3090WQXi

RATING: ●●●●◐ **PRICE:** $2,200 **COMPANY:** NEC
URL: www.necdisplay.com

This 30-inch wide-screen LCD monitor is aimed at professionals whose work requires color accuracy. NEC has built a ton of technology into the display to keep this monitor looking great over the years, including X-Light Pro, which uses an internal backlight sensor to monitor and correct light output over the life of the display. Other interesting features include a programmable Look Up Table. Though the monitor can display 16.7 million colors (8 bits), it boasts a 12-bit Look Up Table that gives the NEC a palette of 68.5 billion colors (macworld.com/3770).

U-Suit Premium for iPod Touch

RATING: ●●●● **PRICE:** $35 **COMPANY:** Uniea
URL: www.uniea.com

The U-Suit Premium is a protective case for your iPod touch, made of hard plastic wrapped in napa leather. The leather feels and looks nice, not cheap. The silver-colored metal edging gives the case a bit of flair that differentiates it from other leather cases. It doesn't have a lot of frills, but Uniea does include a clear screen cover that won't get in the way of using the on-screen buttons. It's a no-nonsense case that looks good and stands up to everyday use (macworld.com/3773).

Vixia HF10

RATING: ●●●◐ **PRICE:** $1,099 **COMPANY:** Canon **URL:** www.canon.com

This high-definition camcorder uses a 16GB internal flash drive and an SD card for storage. The HF10 transfers recorded video to a Mac seamlessly. In our testing, the camcorder shot impressive, brilliant video in both low-light and standard-light settings; colors were slightly oversaturated but looked realistic. We noticed subtle motion artifacts, but for the most part, motion appeared smooth. The HF10 is a fine choice for Mac users eager to leave MiniDV tape behind (macworld.com/3771).

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Top Products

Your guide to the best hardware we've tested. See more at macworld.com/reviews.

PRINTERS

LASER PRINTER

C6100dn

RATING: ●●●●½
PRICE: $799
COMPANY: Oki Data
URL: www.okidata.com

The C6100dn, from Oki Data, produces great-looking prints and includes built-in duplexing. It also offers easy network connectivity and quick printing speeds (macworld.com/1670).

INK-JET PHOTO PRINTER

Stylus Photo 1400

RATING: ●●●●
PRICE: $265
COMPANY: Epson
URL: www.epson.com

Epson's Stylus Photo 1400 prints photos that are rich in both color and detail. Capable of outputting images as large as 13 by 19 inches, this printer is surprisingly well priced, without compromising on quality (macworld.com/2924).

COMPACT PHOTO PRINTER

PictureMate Zoom PM 290

RATING: ●●●●½ **PRICE:** $200 **COMPANY:** Epson
URL: www.epson.com

Affordable, problem-free, and enjoyable to use, the PictureMate Zoom is the speediest and best overall portable photo printer on the market (macworld.com/3102).

MULTIFUNCTION INK-JET

Pixma MX850

RATING: ●●●●½ **PRICE:** $190 **COMPANY:** Canon
URL: www.canon.com

The MX850 prints crisp, legible text that's comparable to laser quality. Add to that speedy performance, solid print results, and extra perks, and you have a superb multifunction printer (macworld.com/3593).

MACS

PRODUCT	PROCESSOR	RATING	PRICE[A]	DISPLAY	SPEEDMARK 5 SCORE[B]	FIND CODE[C]
DESKTOP						
iMac	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.4GHz	●●●●	$1,135	20 inches	230	3597
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.66GHz	●●●●	$1,419	20 inches	254	3598
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.8GHz	●●●●½	$1,704	24 inches	268	3599
Mac mini	Intel Core 2 Duo/1.83GHz	●●●●	$572	not included	159	3030
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2GHz	●●●●	$772	not included	172	3031
Mac Pro	Intel Xeon/ two quad-core 2.8GHz	●●●●½	$2,564	not included	314	3363
PORTABLE						
MacBook	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.1GHz	●●●●	$989	13 inches	180	3464
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.4GHz	●●●●½	$1,219	13 inches	193	3465
	Intel Core 2 Duo/ 2.4GHz (black)	●●●●½	$1,409	13 inches	196	3466
MacBook Air	Intel Core 2 Duo/1.6GHz	●●●½	$1,614	13 inches	124	3364
MacBook Pro	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.4GHz	●●●●½	$1,775	15 inches	204	3467
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.5GHz	●●●●½	$2,225	15 inches	222	3468
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.5GHz	●●●●½	$2,400	17 inches	219	3469

[A] From a PriceGrabber survey of retailers as of August 8, 2008. [B] Speedmark 5 is Macworld Lab's standard test tool for benchmarking systems running Mac OS X 10.5 (Leopard). For information on Speedmark testing, go to www.macworld.com/speedmark. [C] Typing in find codes after *macworld.com/* directs you to a product's review or overview. For example, macworld.com/3364 contains an overview of the 1.6GHz MacBook Air.

MULTIFUNCTION LASER

MFC-9840CDW

RATING: ●●●●
PRICE: $579
COMPANY: Brother
URL: www.brother-usa.com

The MFC-9840CDW is not only a great all-in-one color laser printer, scanner, copier, and fax machine, but also an outstanding value with bonus features such as a duplexer and wireless connectivity (macworld.com/3566).

FLATBED SCANNER

Perfection V700 Photo

RATING: ●●●●
PRICE: $490
COMPANY: Epson
URL: www.epson.com

The Epson Perfection V700 Photo is an excellent, speedy midrange scanner with two lenses for people who need to scan reflective media and transparencies, especially at high resolutions (macworld.com/1519).

Top Products are those we've recently reviewed in a comparison of like products. As new products become available, we'll update this list. For longer reviews of these products and for other product recommendations, go to macworld.com/reviews. All prices are the best current prices taken from a PriceGrabber survey of retailers as of August 8, 2008.

DIGITAL CAMERAS

DIGITAL SLR

D40

RATING: ★★★★ **PRICE:** $397
COMPANY: Nikon
URL: www.nikonusa.com

The Nikon D40 is a great value. This 6.1-megapixel camera comes with every feature you'd desire in a DSLR, such as adjustable ISO, Raw mode, and a variety of image-processing features (macworld.com/2498).

COMPACT DIGITAL CAMERA

NV11

RATING: ★★★★½
PRICE: $190
COMPANY: Samsung
URL: www.samsung.com

An excellent point-and-shoot digital camera, the 10.1-megapixel Samsung NV11 produces detailed and well-exposed images. Its versatile feature set accommodates beginners and advanced shutterbugs alike (macworld.com/2984).

MINIDV CAMCORDER

Vixia HV30

RATING: ★★★★
PRICE: $665
COMPANY: Canon
URL: www.canon.com

Canon's Vixia HV30 is a fine choice for die-hard MiniDV users, offering superb video quality and a bunch of nifty features. MiniDV is gradually becoming a technology of the past, but the HV30 proves that age can also offer sophistication (macworld.com/3708).

LCD MONITORS

LARGE DISPLAY

LP2465

RATING: ★★★★
PRICE: $538 **COMPANY:** Hewlett-Packard
URL: www.hp.com

The HP LP2465 is an extremely adjustable 24-inch desktop LCD panel with a 16:10 wide-screen aspect ratio that immediately calls to mind the cinema. This affordable display's screen features a quick, 6ms gray-to-gray pixel response time, which makes it an excellent choice for viewing motion-heavy graphics in games and movies. (macworld.com/2508).

MEDIUM DISPLAY

MultiSync 2190UXi

RATING: ★★★★½ **PRICE:** $946 **COMPANY:** NEC
URL: www.necdisplay.com

The NEC MultiSync 2190UXi monitor is designed—and priced—for professional users. This 21-inch display doesn't come cheap, but it offers vivid, accurate colors; a wide viewing angle; and a convenient height-adjustable stand (macworld.com/1445).

FIREWIRE HARD DRIVES

DESKTOP DRIVE

My Book Studio Edition

RATING: ★★★★½ **PRICE:** $207
COMPANY: Western Digital
URL: www.westerndigital.com

The My Book Studio Edition's affordability, versatile connection options, compact design, and good performance add up to a superb 1TB drive (macworld.com/3295).

PORTABLE DRIVE

Rocbit 2B

RATING: ★★★★★
PRICE: $287
COMPANY: Rocsecure **URL:** www.rocsecure.com

The portable Rocbit 2B is priced a bit higher than similar portable drives that lack encryption, but it's well worth its cost if security is a concern. In our tests, the Rocbit 2B was 6 to 31 percent faster than three comparable drives from other vendors (macworld.com/1443).

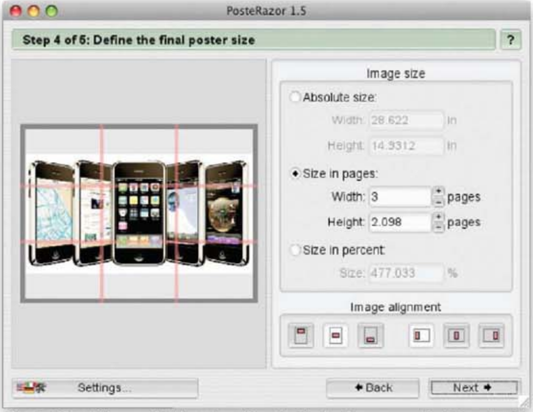
iPODS

PRODUCT	CAPACITY	RATING	PRICE[1]	DISPLAY	BATTERY LIFE	MEDIA SUPPORTED	FIND CODE[2]
iPod classic	80GB	★★★★	$229	2.5-inch color	30 hours of music playback; 5 hours of video playback	music, photos, album art, video, games	3090
	160GB	★★★★	$320	2.5-inch color	40 hours of music playback; 7 hours of video playback	music, photos, album art, video, games	3091
iPod touch	8GB	★★★½	$280	3.5-inch color	22 hours of music playback; 5 hours of video playback	music, photos, album art, video, games, apps	3092
	16GB	★★★½	$367	3.5-inch color	22 hours of music playback; 5 hours of video playback	music, photos, album art, video, games, apps	3093
	32GB	★★★★	$442	3.5-inch color	22 hours of music playback; 5 hours of video playback	music, photos, album art, video, games, apps	3365
iPod nano	4GB	★★★★½	$139	2-inch color	24 hours of music playback; 5 hours of video playback	music, photos, album art, video, games	3094
iPod nano	8GB	★★★★½	$185	2-inch color	24 hours of music playback; 5 hours of video playback	music, photos, album art, video, games	3095
iPod shuffle	1GB	★★★★	$46	none	12 hours of music playback	music	2238
	2GB	★★★★	$68	none	12 hours of music playback	music	3470

[1] From a PriceGrabber survey of retailers as of August 8, 2008. [2] Typing in find codes after *macworld.com/* directs you to a product's review or overview. For example, macworld.com/3092 contains an overview of the 8GB iPod touch.

Mac Gems

Get more and expanded reviews at macworld.com/macgems **BY DAN FRAKES**



PosteRazor 1.5

Step 4 of 5: Define the final poster size

Image size

○ Absolute size:

Width: 28.622 in

Height: 14.9312 in

● Size in pages:

Width: 3 pages

Height: 2.098 pages

○ Size in percent:

Size: 477.033 %

Image alignment

Piece by Piece When you don't have a large-format printer handy, you can use PosteRazor to print posters as 8-by-11-inch sections that you can assemble into one large image.

GRAPHICS

PosteRazor 1.5

RATING: ♦♦♦♦ **PRICE:** free **COMPANY:** Alessandro Portale **URL:** posterazor.sourceforge.net

If you want to print a high-resolution image at a very large size—say, the size of a poster—but you don't have a wide-format printer, PosteRazor lets you easily print the image in smaller sections, each taking up a sheet of standard-size paper, and then put those sections together to create the full image.

PosteRazor uses a clear, five-step process to produce your poster. In Step 1, you choose the image file you want to work with. (PosteRazor supports a wide range of image formats.) You get a small preview of the image and some basic information about it: size, resolution, and color type. Step 2 is where you choose the size of the paper on which you'll be printing. You can also designate nonprintable borders if your printer can't print all the way to the edge.

In Step 3, you choose how much of each page's portion of the image should overlap with those of the adjoining pages and on which edges that overlap should occur. A preview shows you, in red, the area of each page that will overlap with adjoining pages. In Step 4, you choose how large you want your poster to be. Finally, in Step 5, you save the poster as a multipage PDF file; you can print the pages immediately, or you can keep the PDF for later or even send it to someone else.

PosteRazor's interface looks much like that of an older Unix or Windows program, and it doesn't support CMYK JPEGs and 16-bit gray-scale images. I also wish it provided dotted lines as guides for overlapping images. But give it a little pasting patience, and you'll be surprised at how good your DIY posters look.

PRODUCTIVITY

Ultralingua 7.0.1

RATING: ♦♦♦♦ **PRICE:** $35; additional dictionary sets, $35 each, or $25 each for three or more **COMPANY:** Ultralingua **URL:** www.ultralingua.com

Mac OS X's Dictionary program is a handy tool; in Leopard, it lets you quickly search the New Oxford American Dictionary, the Apple Dictionary, the Oxford American Writer's Thesaurus, and Wikipedia for definitions and information about words and topics. But if you're learning a language, or if you're a fan of word puzzles and games, Ultralingua is a unique alternative. Available with an English dictionary and thesaurus, a French dictionary and thesaurus, a French-English medical dictionary, and 13 translation dictionaries, Ultralingua provides several useful language tools.

Ultralingua's Dictionary mode is akin to Mac OS X's Dictionary program. But when you search for a word, Ultralingua's results list also includes related or similar words—useful if you're unsure of a word's exact spelling, or if you're just learning a language and you mistakenly type a word that's spelled similarly to the one you really want. And if you have multiple language dictionaries installed, Dictionary mode lets you do basic word translations. You can also add your own words and definitions to any dictionary.

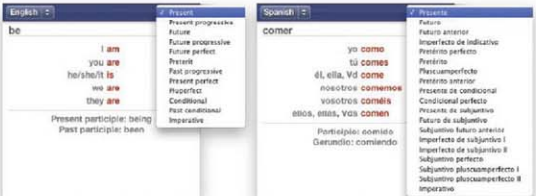
For people learning a new language, the Conjugations mode can conjugate any verb in the chosen language. The

Number feature converts a numeral into its written form in the target language; for example, Ultralingua tells me that 152 in Portuguese is *cento e cinquenta e dois*. And a Flashcard mode lets you create your own flash cards for learning words.

For word-game fans, a Word Hunt feature lets you use wild cards and other search options to search for words. For example, if you're looking for a six-letter word that starts with *t* and ends with *ng*, entering **t???ng** displays a list of matches. (The **?** character matches any single character; * matches zero or more characters; and + matches one or more characters.) However, I discovered an apparent flaw in the Word Hunt feature. When I performed a sample search in the English dictionary, Ultralingua presented six results. When I performed the same search in the English-Spanish translation dictionary, which shows English matches and their Spanish equivalents, the program displayed 12 results—only two of which were the same as the terms produced by the English-only search. So neither search was complete, and the foreign-language dictionary in fact provided more matches.

Finally, the References mode gives you a useful index of grammar rules, a brief primer on the elements of a letter of correspondence (salutations, closings, and the like) in the chosen language, and a short list of sample documents. There's also an Internet section; however, it simply provides quick access to several online resources: Google Translations, Google Search, and Ultralingua's discussion forums.

Extras include a Dashboard widget for dictionary lookups and translations, and a mouse-over definition feature, much like the one OS X's Dictionary provides. Unfortunately, Ultralingua gives you very little documentation; you essentially learn the program by using it. Still, if you work in a multilingual environment, Ultralingua is a useful alternative to OS X Dictionary.


English
✓ Present
Present progressive
Future
Future progressive
Future perfect
Preterit
Past progressive
Present perfect
Pluperfect
Conditional
Past conditional
Imperative
Spanish
✓ Presente
Futuro
Futuro anterior
Imperfecto de indicativo
Pretérito perfecto
Pretérito
Pluscuamperfecto
Pretérito anterior
Presente de condicional
Condicional perfecto
Presente de subjuntivo
Futuro de subjuntivo
Subjuntivo futuro anterior
Imperfecto de subjuntivo I
Imperfecto de subjuntivo II
Subjuntivo perfecto
Subjuntivo pluscuamperfecto I
Subjuntivo pluscuamperfecto II
Imperativo

be

I am
you are
he/she/it is
we are
they are

Present participle: being
Past participle: been

comer

yo como
tú comes
él, ella, Vd come
nosotros comemos
vosotros coméis
ellos, ellas, Vds comen

Participio: comido
Gerundio: comiendo

¿Como Se Dice? Ultralingua's Conjugations mode is quite helpful for new speakers still learning different verb forms.

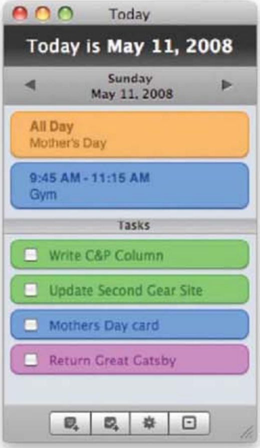
PRODUCTIVITY

Today 1.2

RATING: ●●●◐ **PRICE:** $15 **COMPANY:** Second Gear **URL:** secondgearllc.com

One of Microsoft Entourage 2008's most notable features is My Day, an add-on that lets you view and work with your Entourage calendar events and to-do items in a small floating window, even if Entourage itself isn't running. If you're an iCal user looking for similar functionality, check out Today 1.2. It lets you view, in a compact window, all of the chosen date's calendar events, as well as all to-do items due that day or without a due date. A quick glance gives you an easy-to-read overview of your plans for the day.

You can also create new iCal events and tasks in Today; because Today uses Leopard's calendaring technology, iCal reflects any changes you make in Today, and vice versa. (If you use Mail for managing your to-do items, those tasks are actually part of an iCal calendar, so Mail also mirrors changes you make to tasks in Today, and vice versa.) You can also view the events and tasks for a different day. And if you have multiple iCal calendars, you can choose which calendars' events and tasks to view in Today; each calendar's items are displayed in the color you've chosen for that calendar in iCal. Today can float above all other windows or act as a standard program window, and it can appear in either the Dock or the menu bar; with the latter approach, you can quickly show or hide the Today window by clicking on the menu-bar icon. You can also assign a keyboard shortcut for showing and hiding the Today window.


Today
Today is May 11, 2008
Sunday
May 11, 2008
Tasks

All Day
Mother's Day

9:45 AM - 11:15 AM
Gym

☐ Write C&P Column
☐ Update Second Gear Site
☐ Mothers Day card
☐ Return Great Gatsby

On the Agenda Today 1.2 uses a compact window to display your iCal events—there's no need to open iCal.

Some features I'd like to see added include the ability to hide the events pane temporarily so that just to-do items are visible; an option to disable the display of open-ended tasks so that only tasks actually due today appear; a quick-open drawer for enabling and disabling the display of particular calendars; and a smaller-size option, so the window won't take up so much space. ☒

Senior Editor **Dan Frakes** is always looking for great, low-cost products. Send your thoughts on this column, or on things you'd like to see in future columns, to macgems@macworld.com.

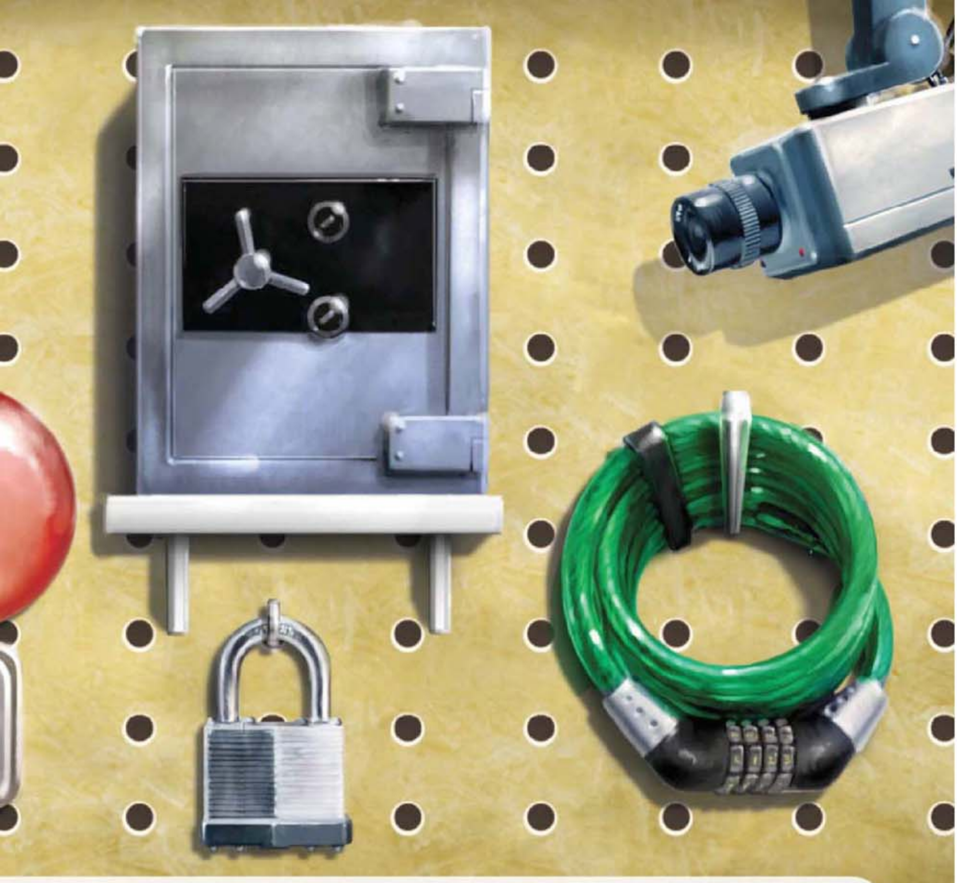
Mac Security Essentials

See what software you *really* need to keep your data—and your Mac—safe

Illustrations By Rob Johnson

Are Macs really more secure than PCs? The answer isn't as simple as you might think. Technically, Macs are not inherently more secure than Windows PCs—by some measures, they are actually less so. Over the past five years, Microsoft has made huge improvements in the security of its Windows operating system, and Apple now lags behind Microsoft's latest software in implementing library randomization, data-execution protection, and other advanced security features.

Still, OS X faces fewer security threats than Windows, in part because malicious hackers no longer write viruses and take down Web sites just for the fun of it. Now they do it for money. And since the vast majority of computers run Windows, focusing efforts on that platform is just a more profitable use of a hacker's time. Also, there aren't many Mac-compatible hacker's tools, comparatively few



attackers know OS X programming, and Apple continually patches vulnerabilities as they're discovered. All those factors add up to fewer Mac attacks.

Could that change? Absolutely. Most security experts agree that as the Mac's popularity and market share increase, so will the risks.

The Tools You Need

So what should you do to keep your Mac safe? We've told you before about basic security precautions you can take (see "Lock It Up" at macworld.com/3556 and "Protect Your Mac" at macworld.com/2536). Many of those suggestions require that you use OS X's built-in security tools—particularly the firewall and programs like FileVault and Disk Utility that can encrypt your data.

But are those built-in tools enough? Or do you need one of the many third-party security programs to truly keep your Mac safe?

To answer those questions, we looked at three categories of security software: firewalls, antivirus applications, and privacy programs. We looked at the threats they protect against, the tools built into OS X, and the third-party alternatives.

In the pages that follow, you'll find our conclusions. At the same time, we urge you to go back to our earlier security stories and be sure that you're following the advice there, too. By educating yourself about the real risks and taking a few basic precautions, you can stay safe, even as the Mac world becomes a little riskier.

FIREWALLS

OS X has two firewall apps built in. Do you need another?

By Rich Mogull and Chris Pepper

Firewalls monitor and regulate the data moving on and off your computer or network. They can keep criminals out while allowing legitimate network traffic in. Mac OS X comes with not one but two firewalls of its own. However, those two aren't always enough.

The Threat

Years ago, a bug (long-since fixed) let attackers send Macs a so-called "ping of death"—specially designed network traffic that could crash a system. There aren't any such network vulnerabilities on Macs (that we know of) now, but many of Apple's security updates specifically address network vulnerabilities. Clearly, Macs aren't inherently immune.

With millions of computers in the world, it might seem that the odds of your Mac being targeted are awfully small. But there are computers out there that do nothing all day but probe Net-connected machines for vulnerabilities; it's certainly possible that one will find yours. And don't forget that any time you're on a network—a coffee shop's Wi-Fi system, for example—you're exposed to anyone else on that network.

The risks—the loss of private data and the hijacking of your Mac's computing power—are great enough, and the cost of prevention low enough, that implementing a good firewall on your Mac and your local network is a no-brainer.

OS X's Firewalls

All versions of OS X through 10.4 (Tiger) have included a Unix-based firewall called ipfw. In security parlance, ipfw is a *packet-filtering* firewall: it checks each packet coming or going through the Mac's network interfaces against a set of rules, and allows it to pass or blocks it.

Packet-filtering firewalls like ipfw classify network traffic two ways: by type, using port numbers, and by origin and destination, using IP addresses. For instance, a packet-filtering firewall could accept file-sharing connections from IP addresses of your work network but not from other addresses on the Internet.

To ipfw, Leopard adds a new *socket-filter* firewall (also known as an application firewall). Rather than using network ports and IP addresses to decide whether to allow a packet, it bases its decision on the application making the network request. When a program asks to accept network traffic, a socket filter checks a list of programs that have been authorized to do so. If the program is on the list, the firewall allows the connection. If the program isn't on the list—as in the case of new or upgraded software—OS X asks you whether to allow the program to accept incoming traffic.

You enable Leopard's socket firewall by selecting Set Access For Specific Services And Applications in the Firewall tab of the Security preference pane. When you select that option, you'll see a list of allowed and blocked programs. If you'd like to block *all* nonessential traffic, you can select Allow Only Essential Services, but beware: doing so will break some applications. You'll still be able to browse the Web and use e-mail, but other inbound connections will be blocked.

Socket filters are less flexible than a packet filter like ipfw. Applications that are allowed to accept network connections will accept them from anywhere on the Internet; they can't be told to distinguish trusted from untrusted Net addresses. The Leopard firewall also blocks only *inbound* connections; it won't prevent programs from making outbound connections. This has become a big problem in the Windows world: spyware programs lodge themselves on hard drives and then "phone home" with sensitive private information.

TIP

Stay Current with Software Update

Malicious hackers exploit software flaws—*vulnerabilities* in security lingo—to gain access to or control of your Mac. Apple usually releases fixes for those vulnerabilities quickly. So keeping your software up-to-date is one of the best things you can do to protect your Mac. To make sure you have the latest software, go to the Software Update pane in System Preferences and make sure it's enabled. (By default, it is.) I recommend checking daily; sometimes attacks appear within hours of a patch release.—RICH MOGULL

While OS X 10.5 still includes ipfw, it's effectively disabled by default. But you can enable and configure it from the command line or through a third-party application such as Hanynet's free WaterRoof 2.0 or NoobProof 1.1 (both 🐭🐭🐭🐭; macworld.com/3734). And ipfw is compatible with Leopard's socket filter, so you can combine the two to block untrusted applications from accepting connections and simultaneously restrict inbound and outbound traffic by ports and IP addresses.

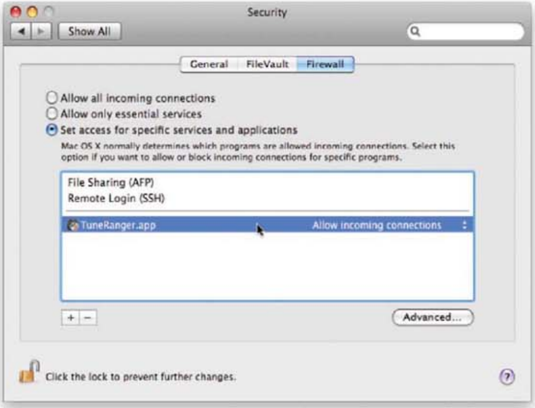
Third-Party Firewalls

So why would you want to buy and install a third-party firewall when OS X's seem to cover the bases pretty well? The primary reasons are more flexibility and better protection.

For example, Intego's $50 NetBarrier X5 (macworld.com/3808) lets you set rules based on where connections are coming from. (We've had trouble with some other NetBarrier features; check macworld.com for our review.) You can get similar firewall control from free tools such as WaterRoof, but they don't offer those extra privacy features.

Another limitation of Leopard's built-in socket filter is that it can't change rules when you change locations. For example, you might want to leave your laptop's iTunes sharing turned on at home but shut it off when you use your laptop on the road. Open Door Networks' $80 DoorStop X Security Suite (🐭🐭🐭🐭½; macworld.com/2657) lets you define locations and quickly set the firewall to preset rules for where you are. NetBarrier also allows you to create different rules for local network addresses and for addresses on the Internet—a remarkably simple and useful distinction.

If you want fine-grained application control—defining not only which applications can send and receive information to and from the Internet, but also which Net addresses they can contact—you can use Objective Development's $30 Little Snitch (🐭🐭🐭🐭½; macworld.com/3693); it's particularly effective against spyware.



○ Allow all incoming connections
○ Allow only essential services
● Set access for specific services and applications

Mac OS X normally determines which programs are allowed incoming connections. Select this option if you want to allow or block incoming connections for specific programs.

File Sharing (AFP)
Remote Login (SSH)
TuneRanger.app — Allow incoming connections

Set Access The Security preference pane lets you configure OS X's built-in socket-filter firewall, which filters network traffic by application.

Our Advice

For most users, the firewalls built into OS X are enough. Enable OS X's basic socket-filter firewall via the Security preference pane (we recommend that you choose Set Access For Specific Services And Applications); if you want the extra protection of OS X's ipfw firewall, use the excellent and free NoobProof to configure it.

Rich Mogull is the security editor at TidBits (db.tidbits.com) and runs Securosis LLC (securosis.com), a security consulting practice. **Chris Pepper**, a systems administrator, is a TidBits contributor.

Third-Party Firewalls

PRODUCT	PRICE	RATING	FIND URL[A]
DoorStop X Security Suite 2.2 Open Door Networks **www.opendoor.com**	$79	🐭🐭🐭🐭½[B]	macworld.com/2657
Flying Buttress 1.4 Brian Hill **macworld.com/3819**	$25	🐭🐭🐭½	macworld.com/1312
IPNetSentryX 1.6.5 Sustainable Softworks **www.sustworks.com**	$60	🐭🐭🐭½	macworld.com/3769
Little Snitch 2.0.3 Objective Development **www.obdev.at**	$30 (multiuser and upgrade licenses available)	🐭🐭🐭🐭½	macworld.com/3693
NetBarrier X5 Intego **www.intego.com**	$50	N/A	macworld.com/3808
NoobProof 1.1 Hanynet **www.hanynet.com**	payment requested	🐭🐭🐭🐭	macworld.com/3734
Norton Personal Firewall 3.0.3 Symantec **www.symantec.com**	$50	🐭🐭🐭🐭	macworld.com/1314

N/A = not applicable. [A] Typing find URLs into your browser's address bar directs you to a product's review or overview. For example, macworld.com/3693 takes you to our review of Little Snitch 2.0.3. [B] Version 2.0 reviewed.

VIRUS PROTECTION

If there are no Mac viruses, who needs an antivirus program?

By Scott McNulty

Although Apple computers are not somehow magically immune to viruses and other malware, they've been remarkably free of such pests for most of their history. But does that mean you can ignore antivirus software?

The Threat

In 1982, the Elk Cloner virus spread among Apple IIs by copying itself to floppy disks' boot sectors. The 50th time an infected machine was booted, a poem would appear on its screen. Elk Cloner didn't do any actual damage, but it certainly perplexed many 1982 computer users, who had never experienced a computer virus before.

Twenty-four years after Elk Cloner, Leap-A emerged. Disguised as an image file, Leap-A modified files on an infected Mac and, when iChat was opened, would send infected files to the victim's iChat buddies.

Many people thought at the time that Leap-A signaled the end of OS X's bug-free idyll. But Leap-A managed to infect a grand total of 49 Macs, and in the two years since, the Mac virus floodgates have yet to open: A few proof-of-concept viruses have cropped up, but almost none have been observed in the wild. Question is, why?

Security expert Bruce Schneier credits the Mac's small market share: "If you're looking for the masses of naive users, Windows is where to go," he says. Adam O'Donnell, director of emerging technologies at Cloudmark, agrees. He's applied game theory to the question and concluded that producing Mac malware won't be economically viable until the Mac's market share hits 16 percent (it's now 8.5 percent). O'Donnell says, "There is no economic benefit to investing the time in compromising a Mac when you can compromise 10 to 20 times more systems for the same level of effort by going after PCs."

But that doesn't mean you should keep your guard down entirely. Running Windows on an Intel-based Mac—in either Boot Camp or with virtualization software such as Parallels Desktop or VMware Fusion—exposes you to the same security risks as if you were running it on a Dell. And while your Mac might not suffer any ill effects from virus-laden e-mail attachments, you could pass those dangerous files to your Windows-using friends.

Finally, some malicious hackers have turned their talents from writing viruses to setting up phishing sites on the Web, where they hope to dupe you into handing over your credit card information, Social Security numbers, and so on.

Antivirus Programs

By buying a Mac, you've already taken the first and best step toward keeping malware off your computer. (It's striking how many of the security experts interviewed for this article are Mac users.)

Both Symantec and Intego sell Mac antivirus programs: Norton AntiVirus 11 ($50; ★★★★½; macworld.com/3727) and VirusBarrier X5 ($70; ★★★★½; macworld.com/3728), respectively. But if you don't run Windows and you don't mind passing along virus-laden e-mail attachments to your Windows friends, you don't need either one.

If you do run Windows on your Mac, you should install a Windows antivirus program on your virtual PC. Our confederates at *PC World* recommend Symantec's $70 Norton Internet Security 2008 (macworld.com/3797), the $80 Kaspersky Internet Security 7.0 (macworld.com/3798), McAfee Internet Security Suite (a three-seat license,

TIP

Pick E-mail Services with Antispam and Antivirus Features

E-mail is a favorite tool of digital miscreants; it's the perfect distribution mechanism for viruses and other malicious software. If you don't see the sense in installing antivirus software on your Mac (and for many users, that's probably the right decision), consider using an e-mail service, such as Google's free Gmail (★★★★; macworld.com/3524), MobileMe (★★★½; macworld.com/3774), or Yahoo Mail (★★★½; macworld.com/3523), that scans e-mail and blocks viruses and spam before they ever hit you.—RICH MOGULL

$70; macworld.com/3799), and BitDefender Internet Security 2008 (macworld.com/3800), which costs $50 for three PCs. Each of these general-purpose security suites can protect your virtual Windows machine against all sorts of threats.

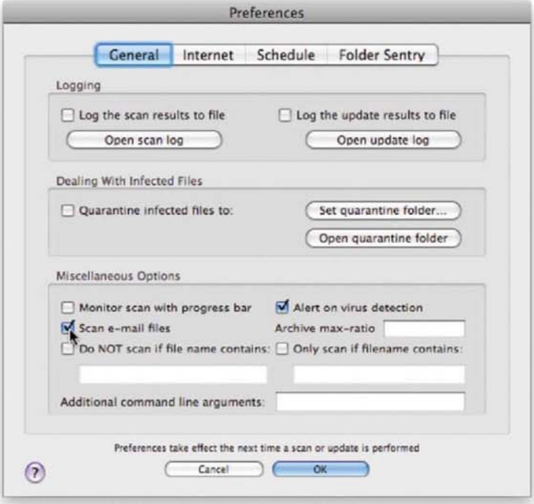
Symantec (www.symantec.com) and Intego (www.intego.com) each offer dual-protection products for users who run both Windows and OS X on their Macs. These bundles give you Windows and Mac antivirus apps. Norton's package costs $70 and includes Norton AntiVirus 11 for Mac and Norton AntiVirus 2008 for Windows, while Intego's package costs $80 and includes VirusBarrier X5 for Mac and BitDefender Antivirus 2008 for Windows. Each of these packages costs far less than its two programs bought separately; you have to install the Mac program and the Windows program on their respective operating systems.

If you're worried about passing along infected e-mails to friends, these bundles or one of the stand-alone Mac apps can also scan your inbox for malware attachments. The free, open-source ClamXav (🖱🖱🖱½; macworld.com/3767) will do so, too, but it's slow.

As for keeping yourself safe from Web-based phishing schemes, your own common sense is your best line of defense: Don't give out personal information on a Web site unless you are 100 percent sure it's legitimate.

Some Web browsers—notably Firefox and Opera—notify you when you visit a potentially dangerous site. Safari doesn't, which is why *Consumer Reports* and some e-commerce companies (including PayPal) recommend using something else. Studies have shown that most users ignore these warnings; they shouldn't.

Safari users can stay safer by using Agile Web Solutions' $30 password manager 1Password (🖱🖱🖱🖱½; macworld.com/3801). It automatically fills in Web forms, but you can define how much information it'll give out in specific circumstances. It also compares URLs with the database at PhishTank.com (a community-based phish-tracking site) and alerts you when you visit a suspicious one. Norton Confidential ($50; www.symantec.com) includes phishing-protection plug-ins for both Safari and Firefox. It compares URLs you visit with Symantec's database of phishing sites and alerts you if you attempt to visit one. Norton Confidential also protects against e-mail–based phishing attempts.


Preferences

General | Internet | Schedule | Folder Sentry

Logging

☐ Log the scan results to file
☐ Log the update results to file

Dealing With Infected Files

☐ Quarantine infected files to:

Miscellaneous Options

☐ Monitor scan with progress bar
☑ Alert on virus detection
☑ Scan e-mail files
Archive max-ratio:
☐ Do NOT scan if file name contains:
☐ Only scan if filename contains:
Additional command line arguments:

Preferences take effect the next time a scan or update is performed

Scan Your E-mail ClamXav is a free way to scan Mac e-mail for Windows viruses, before you pass them along to your Windows-using friends or coworkers.

Our Advice

No matter which operating system you use, there will always be people out there trying to make a fast buck by exploiting known bugs, system vulnerabilities, or lax users. I advise spending your money not on Mac antivirus software but on a good phishing-protection application; at the very least, consider using a browser that offers built-in phishing protection. Your Mac's file system is probably safe from malicious hackers, but your identity may not be.

Scott McNulty is a senior contributor for MacUser (www.macuser.com) and blogs at blankbaby (blog.blankbaby.com).

Third-Party Antivirus Applications

PRODUCT	PRICE	RATING	FIND URL[A]
ClamXav 1.1 open source	payment requested	🖱🖱🖱½ [B]	macworld.com/3767
Norton AntiVirus 11 Symantec **www.symantec.com**	$50; upgrade, $30	🖱🖱🖱🖱½	macworld.com/3727
VirusBarrier X5 Intego **www.intego.com**	$70; upgrade, $45 (includes a one-year virus update subscription)	🖱🖱🖱🖱½	macworld.com/3728

[A] Typing find URLs into your browser's address bar directs you to a product's review or overview. For example, macworld.com/3728 takes you to our review of VirusBarrier X5. [B] Version 1.03 reviewed.

PRIVACY SAFEGUARDS

Keep your personal information personal with OS X and third-party apps

By Joe Kissell

At the very least, losing your wallet to a thief is a major pain in the neck: you lose your cash and (possibly) some precious mementos, and you have to cancel your credit cards and replace your driver's license. More seriously, the thief could steal your identity, using your personal information to make purchases, get loans, or cause you all kinds of grief by pretending to be you.

All that and more could also happen if your Mac's data were to fall into the wrong hands.

Privacy software addresses concerns like these by making sure that any confidential information you keep on your computer or send across the Net can be seen only by you and the people you designate. In most cases, that means using some form of encryption.

The Threats

Threats to computer privacy—and the software tools that address those threats—fall into two broad categories: threats from physical loss and threats from electronic snooping.

Physical Loss Computer theft is unfortunately quite common. Thieves are certainly interested in your Mac, either to keep or to sell. But anyone with a bit of curiosity and a few minutes could discover all kinds of useful things about you by examining your files—especially if your keychain is unlocked or has an easily guessable password.

A laptop is more likely to be stolen than a desktop, especially if it spends a lot of time outside your home or office. A Mac Pro in a locked room of an isolated house with a big guard dog is certainly less likely to be stolen than a MacBook Air you carry with you all the time as you walk around a big city.

Also, laptops are frequently simply lost—left on restaurant tables or at bus stops, forgotten at airport security checkpoints, or otherwise misplaced. Although an honest person might locate and return your lost computer, you might not be so lucky.

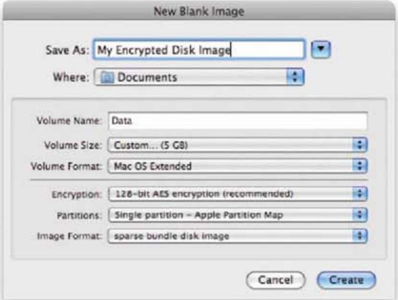
Even if your computer is right where it's supposed to be, other people can still get to your personal information. Family members, friends, or coworkers, say—any of them could, in theory, snoop around on your hard disk. And if your Mac breaks down, any repair technician could potentially see your private data.

Electronic Snooping A criminal doesn't need physical access to your Mac to do you wrong. He or she can snoop into your network traffic (unencrypted Wi-Fi connections are especially easy), looking for strings of characters that might be passwords, account numbers, and the like.

There's no way to determine the exact likelihood of your network traffic being intercepted. But anecdotal evidence suggests that snooping is quite common. Whenever you use an unsecured wireless network—from an office, coffee shop, airport, or park bench—someone *could* be eavesdropping.

Snooping on wired Internet connections is harder but still possible. In theory, anyone who can tap into the network at any point between you and the servers you visit (for example, an employee of an ISP, a government agent, or someone else with physical access to one of the many routers your data passes through) could pick out your passwords, account numbers, and other private data.

Whether you're talking about physical vulnerabilities or electronic ones, you do



New Blank Image

Save As: My Encrypted Disk Image

Where: Documents

Volume Name: Data

Volume Size: Custom... (5 GB)

Volume Format: Mac OS Extended

Encryption: 128-bit AES encryption (recommended)

Partitions: Single partition – Apple Partition Map

Image Format: sparse bundle disk image

Disk Images When creating an encrypted disk image in Disk Utility, use these settings for best results (alter the name, location, and size to meet your needs).

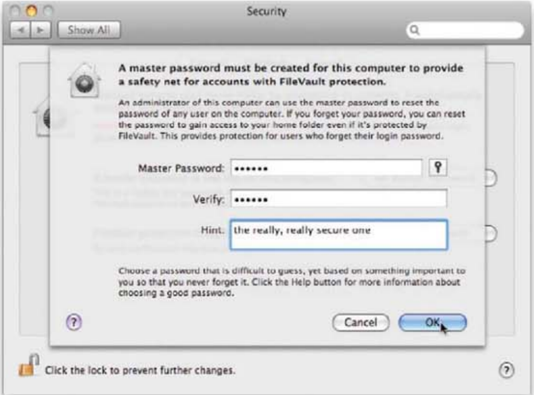
have the odds in your favor. Thieves, hackers, and spies have only so much time to do their work. They can't attack all the computer users out there. But even if the odds are one in a million that you'll be attacked in this way, you can make it just about impossible by using encryption and other software to protect your privacy.

OS X's Privacy Tools

Encryption software can ensure the privacy of data you're storing on your hard drive or sending to other people, by making it essentially impossible for anyone else to read. OS X itself has some built-in encryption tools that address part of the problem, and third-party software can help with the rest.

Protecting Your Files To protect yourself against people who have physical access to your Mac, you should consider encrypting at least some of the data on your hard disk. You can encrypt anything from a single file to the contents of an entire volume. Unless you're protecting state secrets, one of the many off-the-shelf encryption tools available for the Mac, combined with a good password, should be good enough to keep your data safe.

OS X's FileVault feature encrypts the entire contents of your user folder (/Users/*youruserfolder*). To activate FileVault in Leopard, go to the Security preference pane and click on the FileVault tab. If you haven't already done so, click on Set Master Password and specify a password that you can use to unlock FileVault if you forget your regular login password. Make it a good one but one that you'll remember—and be sure not to lose it. Then click on Turn On FileVault. (The process of encrypting your user folder takes time.) Remember that, before you start, you'll need at least as much free space on your disk as your user folder currently occupies. Once FileVault is on, logging out will encrypt all your files, and logging in will decrypt them again.



A master password must be created for this computer to provide a safety net for accounts with FileVault protection.

An administrator of this computer can use the master password to reset the password of any user on the computer. If you forget your password, you can reset the password to gain access to your home folder even if it's protected by FileVault. This provides protection for users who forget their login password.

Master Password: ••••••

Verify: ••••••

Hint: the really, really secure one

Choose a password that is difficult to guess, yet based on something important to you so that you never forget it. Click the Help button for more information about choosing a good password.

Click the lock to prevent further changes.

FileVault If you encrypt your user folder with FileVault and then forget your regular login password, you can get to your data by providing the master password.

TIP

Use Parental Controls

The one time I was ever infected by malware on Windows it was thanks to my niece browsing for free online games. Even if you follow safe browsing habits, not everyone else using your computer will. Leopard's Parental Controls (in the Accounts preference pane) are a seldom-used but powerful tool for limiting risky activity on your Mac.—RICH MOGULL

While you're at it, you should consider encrypting your virtual memory (select Use Secure Virtual Memory on the Security preference pane's General tab). Then if someone examines the virtual memory files written to disk as you use your Mac, they won't find any unencrypted copies of your data.

If encrypting your entire user folder with FileVault seems like overkill, you can instead store important files in an encrypted disk image created with Disk Utility.

To do so, open Disk Utility (in /Applications/Utilities). Choose File: New: Blank Disk Image. Enter a name for the disk-image file and choose a location; also enter (in the Volume Name field) the name you want the mounted image to have. From the Volume Size pop-up menu, choose the *maximum* size you want your disk image to have. Select Mac OS Extended from the Format pop-up menu, choose 128-bit AES Encryption from the Encryption pop-up menu, leave Partitions set to Single Partition - Apple Partition Map, and choose Sparse Bundle Disk Image from the Image Format pop-up menu. Then click on Create. When prompted, enter and repeat a password and click on OK.

To use your new disk image, simply double-click on the file. Enter your password when prompted, and the volume will mount in the Finder. You can then copy files to it and open them directly from the image. When you eject the image, log out, or shut down, the files will be inaccessible to anyone who doesn't have the password.

Protecting Your Communications To protect your e-mail, you can use one or more forms of encryption. Similarly, you can encrypt live chats in iChat or other instant-messaging clients to protect them from interception. (For more advice on securely transferring files, see this month's *Mobile Mac* column, page 86.)

The easiest way to start ensuring secure communications is to use SSL (Secure Sockets Layer). Almost all modern e-mail services (including, naturally, MobileMe) offer SSL as an option for receiving mail (using IMAP, POP, or Exchange) and for sending mail (using SMTP). SSL encrypts e-mail as it travels between your computer and your e-mail provider (in either direction); though, messages will still be stored unencrypted on your mail server and the recipient's mail server.

In most cases, you just need to turn on this option in your e-mail program—but before you do, confirm that your e-mail provider supports SSL, and find out if it requires the use of a special mail server address or other configuration changes.

To activate SSL in Mail, choose Mail: Preferences, click on Accounts, and select your e-mail account in the list on the left. To use SSL for incoming mail, click on the Advanced tab and make sure the Use SSL option is selected. To use SSL for outgoing mail, click on the Account Information tab and choose Edit Server List from the Outgoing Mail Server (SMTP) pop-up menu. Select the SMTP server associated with this account, click on the Advanced tab, and make sure the Use Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) option is selected. Click on OK.

If you use another e-mail program, consult its documentation to learn how to turn on SSL. If your e-mail provider doesn't support SSL, you can opt to encrypt your entire Internet connection with a VPN instead.

SSL protects your messages during just part of the journey between sender and recipient. To make sure that no one but you and your correspondents can read your messages, even when those messages are sitting on a mail server, you need to encrypt their contents. Apple Mail has built-in encryption capabilities. (Again, see this month's *Mobile Mac*, page 86, for more.) If you use another e-mail program, or if you want a simpler setup procedure, you can use third-party software (described just ahead) to encrypt e-mail.

Instant-messaging (IM) sessions in iChat or another client are also vulnerable to snooping. If you use IM mainly for small talk, this risk might not bother you at all. But if you exchange business plans, passwords, or other confidential information via IM, you should consider encrypting your chats.

Some IM programs (such as Skype) encrypt chats automatically. iChat can encrypt chats if you're a MobileMe member. To set this up, open iChat and choose iChat: Preferences. Select your MobileMe account in the list on the left, click on Security, and make sure the message at the bottom of the window indicates "iChat encryption is enabled." If it reads "iChat encryption is disabled," click on the Enable button to enable it.

Third-Party Encryption Software

PRODUCT	PRICE	RATING	FIND URL[A]
FileGuard X5 Intego **www.intego.com**	$40	N/A	macworld.com/3810
Knox 1.5.3 Marko Karppinen **www.knoxformac.com**	$30	🐭🐭🐭🐭[B]	macworld.com/2534
PGP Desktop Home PGP **www.pgp.com**	$99	🐭🐭🐭🐭½[C]	macworld.com/0719
StuffIt Deluxe 12 Smith Micro **my.smithmicro.com**	$80	🐭🐭🐭🐭½[D]	macworld.com/2501
TrueCrypt 6.0 open source	payment requested	N/A	macworld.com/3809

N/A = not applicable. [A] Typing find URLs into your browser's address bar directs you to a product's review or overview. For example, macworld.com/2534 takes you to our review of Knox 1.1.1. [B] Version 1.1.1 reviewed. [C] Version 9 reviewed; update expected in fall 2008. [D] Version 11 reviewed.

TIP

Browse Safely

After e-mail applications, Web browsers are the most commonly attacked programs. Here are two things you can do to make browsing safer:

> If you're using Safari, disable the General preference pane's Open Safe Files After Downloading option.

> If you're using Firefox, install the NoScript plug-in. (Go to addons.mozilla.org, search for and find the NoScript plug-in, and then click on Add to Firefox.) It prevents scripts from running without your permission, but you'll have to manually enable them for every site.—RICH MOGULL

Third-Party Privacy Tools

When it comes to encrypting your files or keeping your communications confidential as they traverse the Net, there are several third-party apps that can substantially supplement OS X's built-in tools.

Protecting Your Files If neither FileVault nor an encrypted disk image suits your needs, you should consider a third-party encryption program instead.

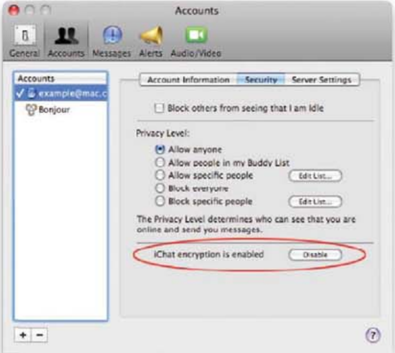
Numerous Mac programs can encrypt individual files or folders (or create "vaults," often in the form of proprietary disk images, for holding multiple files). Examples are Intego's $40 FileGuard X5 (macworld.com/3810), Marko Karppinen's $30 Knox (🐭🐭🐭🐭; macworld.com/2534), PGP Desktop Home ($99; 🐭🐭🐭🐭½; macworld.com/0719), and Smith Micro's $80 StuffIt Deluxe (🐭🐭🐭🐭½; macworld.com/2501).

These programs typically offer greater flexibility and more features than either FileVault or Disk Utility. For example, StuffIt Deluxe not only encrypts but also compresses your files. PGP Desktop Home can also encrypt e-mail and instant messages (a new version of that program should be available by the time you read this; see Macworld.com for our review after it comes out). You can set FileGuard to securely overwrite the original versions of your files automatically when they're copied to an encrypted image.

If you want to encrypt an entire volume (other than your startup volume), consider the open-source TrueCrypt (free; macworld.com/3809), which can also create *hidden* encrypted volumes. Two products can encrypt an entire Mac startup volume: Check Point Full Disk Encryption ($120; www.checkpoint.com) and PGP's Whole Disk Encryption ($119; www.pgp.com). Check Point Full Disk Encryption is geared toward corporate customers who buy in volume, while PGP Whole Disk Encryption is readily available to individual consumers.

Protecting Your Communications If you want to be absolutely certain that a message will get to its destination without being read by anyone else, but don't want to jump through the hoops Apple Mail requires, look for a third-party option. Your best bet is software based on PGP (Pretty Good Privacy), a widely used, platform-neutral encryption system.

The commercial version of PGP, PGP Desktop Home, lets you sign and encrypt e-mail messages with just a few clicks; it also ensures that all your e-mail accounts use SSL. (Your correspondents must also be using some version of PGP.)



☐ Block others from seeing that I am Idle

Privacy Level:

● Allow anyone
○ Allow people in my Buddy List
○ Allow specific people
○ Block everyone
○ Block specific people

The Privacy Level determines who can see that you are online and send you messages.

iChat encryption is enabled

Private Chat MobileMe members can encrypt their iChats just by clicking on a button; the setup looks like this when encryption is active.

PHOTOGRAPH BY DIANE RISS/GETTY IMAGES

Scrubbers

Every time you browse the Web, your browser stores information about where you've been and what you've been doing. Unless you encrypt your user folder, this information is in plain view for anyone who knows where to look.

If you use Safari, one solution is to activate Private Browsing mode (Safari: Private Browsing), which prevents most of this data from being written to your disk in the first place. Most other browsers also let you turn off these features, though doing so may require changing several settings.

You can also use a utility commonly referred to as a "scrubber" to seek out and delete all traces of your recent online activities. These programs include Maintain's $15 **Cocktail** (www.maintain.se); Smith Micro's $30 **Internet Cleanup** (●●●; macworld.com/3768); Koingo's $20 **MacCleanse** (www.koingosw.com); SecureMac's $30 **MacScan** (●●; macworld.com/1511), which also checks for spyware; and Mireth Technology's $25 **NetShred X** (www.mireth.com).

But browsing in private mode and using a scrubber can still leave some traces of your Web trail behind. For example, an OS X component called Directory Services can cache some DNS information, revealing Web sites you've visited. To clear it, open Terminal (/Applications/Utilities), type `dscacheutil -flushcache`, and press return.

Also, some browser plug-ins can cache their own content, even if your browser is set to not save anything. To remove your Flash cache, drag the contents of the following folders to the Trash: *youruserfolder*/Library/Preferences/Macromedia/Flash Player/Shared Objects and *youruserfolder*/Library/Preferences/Macromedia/Flash Player/macromedia.com/support/flashplayer/sys.—JOE KISSELL

Alternatively, you might try the free, open-source Mac GNU Privacy Guard (or Mac GPG for short; macgpg.sourceforge.net). Mac GPG lacks many of PGP Desktop Home's snazzier features. It also requires the installation of several different packages and takes a little bit of effort to set up. (For example, to use it with Mail, you'll need a separate open-source add-on called GPGMail [www.sente.ch], the Leopard version of which is still in beta.) But it's compatible with PGP and makes a good, inexpensive way to get started with e-mail encryption.

Our Advice

For most users, simple approaches (perhaps even using OS X's built-in software) are more than enough to protect privacy. Secure your e-mail with SSL and your iChats with MobileMe encryption, and either create an encrypted disk image to hold sensitive files or use FileVault to encrypt all your personal documents. If you need more power or flexibility, try a third-party program, but be sure to download a demo version and give it a thorough tryout before buying it. Even the most powerful encryption software does you no good if using it turns out to be so cumbersome that you avoid it.

Joe Kissell is the senior editor of TidBits (db.tidbits.com) and the author of numerous e-books about OS X (www.takecontrolbooks.com).

New Portrait Professional 8
Ultra easy portrait touch-up software.
See it to believe it. Free trial.

Portrait Professional 8 is new, incredibly easy to use portrait enhancement software. Offers complete creative control, improve any aspect of your portraits instantly, just by moving sliders. Fast. Easy. Great results.

But see for yourself. Download the free trial from www.PortraitProfessional.com and prove it for yourself. And from just $79:95 for the standard version, it knocks spots off the competition, as well as your subjects.

SPECIAL **10% EXTRA DISCOUNT** FOR MACWORLD READERS IF YOU ENTER THE COUPON **TH589** WHEN BUYING ONLINE.

www.PortraitProfessional.com

Web Sites We Love

We've handpicked 55 great sites that make you smarter, richer, and more interesting

The Internet is a big, big place. You'd think that with all those Web sites and blogs at your fingertips, finding great content would be a cinch. But more often than not, we end up getting stuck in a rut, visiting the same old Web sites over and over again. Search engines can help point you in the right direction—if you know exactly what you want. But what if you're just looking for something new and interesting?

Luckily, we here at *Macworld* get paid to search the Web for great sites. Whether its sweet deals on Mac gear or creative ways to blow off steam, we're always on the hunt for the most useful, informative, and inspiring spots on the Internet. And now we're opening up our bookmark folders to share our favorite finds with you.

Photography by Peter Belanger

Smart Shopping, p.66
Get Advice, p.67
Conversation Starters, p.68
Have Fun with Your Photos, p.69
Keep Up With Friends, p.69
Get Inspired, p.70
Summer Distractions for the Kids, p.71
Play Time, p.72

Smart Shopping

Why pay retail prices if you don't have to? The Web is full of discounts and bargains—if you know where to look.

Find Sales and Coupons

Looking for bargains on everything from stand mixers to digital cameras to clothing? Then be sure to visit Dealhack (www.dealhack.com), Ben's Bargains (bensbargains.net), and Want Not (wantnot.net) regularly. All three sites monitor rebate offers, coupons, and sales at popular shopping sites. To save time as well as money, subscribe to each site's RSS feed in your favorite news reader and have deals sent right to you.

Score a Sweet Deal

Woot (www.woot.com) takes an interesting approach to saving money: each day the site offers exactly one product at an amazingly low price. Products range from three-packs of wine to 31-in-1 ratcheting wrenches. It also provides side deals if the day's main item doesn't interest you. But be quick; some offers sell out quickly, and every deal disappears after 24 hours. You won't need everything Woot offers, but at these prices, you can afford a few impulse buys.

CONSUMERIST

Don't Use Target's Wedding Registry If You Think Asking Your Wedding Guests For Receipts Is Rude

TARGET
STOP

THE CONSUMERIST Share bad experiences and learn from others at this consumer-advocacy blog.

woot!
sold out!

Versa Wrench 12" 31-in-1 Ratcheting Wrench - 2 Pack
$4.99

WOOT You have to be quick to get the best deals at Woot.

Outfit Your Mac

If you're looking for Mac accessories, look no further than dealmac (dealmac.com). Here you'll find good deals on RAM, hard drives, printers, speaker systems, headphones, and even refurbished Macs. It also tracks HDTVs, MP3 players (iPod and others), and computer furniture.

Buy Original Art

You don't need a trust fund to start your own art collection. Each week, Tiny Showcase (www.tinyshowcase.com) commissions an up-and-coming artist to create a limited-run print production of his or her work on archival printmaking paper. Each artist chooses a charity to donate a portion of the $20 to $40 price, so you're supporting two good causes at once.

Another great source is Etsy (www.etsy.com), an online marketplace for unique handmade artwork, gifts, and accessories. Products include jewelry, pet clothes, holiday cards, toys, and candles.

Sleep Well

Plenty of Web sites help you find cheap hotel rooms. TripAdvisor's (www.tripadvisor.com) user reviews help you make sure you're not staying in a fleabag motel. The site boasts more than 15 million reviews—many with user-supplied photos—of hotels around the world. You can use the site to find the most popular hotels in a city or search based on type of traveler (seniors, honeymooners, families). You can then check room rates on sites such as Orbitz, Expedia, Travelocity, and Priceline.

Fight Back

When a deal sounds too good to be true, sometimes it is. With a tagline of "Shoppers Bite Back," The Consumerist (consumerist.com) is a great place to look *before* you buy, to avoid bad purchases or suspect companies. For example, some posts on the blog warn about a company offering bribes to remove negative feedback and an unreliable moving company.

Get Advice

Life doesn't come with a manual. Thankfully, there's no shortage of advice on the Web, covering everything from how to solve technical woes to how to get your kids to eat their vegetables. All you have to do is ask.

Simplify Your Tasks

Daytipper (www.daytipper.com) is a community-driven site featuring small nuggets of advice for just about every aspect of your life. Want to know how to lock someone out of the house, even if he or she has a key? (Loosen one of the screws in the deadbolt.) Wondering what's the best day to dine out? (Tuesday, when fresh deliveries are made.) Each user-submitted tip is rated for usefulness and categorized, making searches easy.

daytipper
The best Wellness tips
Cooking
51 useful
51 useful

DAYTIPPER Users rate the usefulness of the tips on this handy site.

Get Parental Advice

Being a parent can be rewarding—and completely overwhelming. Parent Hacks (www.parenthacks.com) features practical tips from real parents. Posts offer ideas on everything from how to use a sled to keep kids entertained in the summer to how to create your own sandbox. Another great site is Momready (www.momready.com), which offers categorized articles on topics such as pool safety and product reviews.

Be More Efficient

Lifehacker (lifehacker.com) hunts the Web for the best tips and tricks to make your life easier. Many of them focus on using your computer to be more productive, but you'll also find ideas for taking better photos, creating a wall mural with chalkboard paint, and making your kitchen more functional.

Show-and-Tell

If you're the type of person who likes to get the job done yourself, Instructables (www.instructables.com) is the place for you. The site offers step-by-step directions for just about everything, from creating festive string lights out of ping-pong balls, to rescuing a hummingbird, to fixing a broken fan. Instructions are rated by fellow readers and organized into useful categories.

How To: Ping Pong Ball Lights
advancedtmischief.com

INSTRUCTABLES Follow step-by-step instructions for creating a string of lights from ping-pong balls.

SITES WE LOVE

Commentary with Bite

Fire Joe Morgan This blog (www.firejoemorgan.com) offers laugh-out-loud-funny critiques of bad sports journalism. It's not just about baseball commentator Joe Morgan (though the annotated versions of Morgan's weekly ESPN.com chat are hilarious), but also about any sportswriter or broadcaster who makes ridiculously false statements. It's a delightful combination of logical, intelligent analysis and caught-you-with-your-pants-down humor.—JASON SNELL

TV Talk Machine In this podcast (macworld.com/3791), listeners submit TV-related questions to *San Francisco Chronicle* TV critic Tim Goodman. However, Goodman and his sidekicks seldom actually answer the questions. Instead, they fill time with wacky impressions and a bizarre collection of recurring callers. The TV Talk Machine makes me laugh so hard that the other people waiting at my bus stop must think I'm crazy.—JASON SNELL

You Look Nice Today If you think that learning about Chuck Norris's Action Jeans or the National Day of Goatee Reconsideration is useless, then avoid this blog-podcast (youlooknicetoday.com) at all costs. But if deadpan humor and artful non sequiturs are your cup of tea, then join productivity guru Merlin Mann, iTunes podcasting product manager Scott Simpson, and visual effects artist Adam Lisagor for navel-gazing that runs the emotional gamut. Beware: the show's content and language can be explicit.—DAN MOREN

Chronicle Podcasts: Tim Goodman's TV Talk Machine
TV

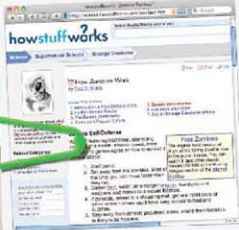
TV TALK This irreverent podcast doesn't take itself or TV too seriously.

Conversation Starters

It takes more than a jigger of whiskey and a few good jokes to be the life of a party. These fact-filled sites will fill your head with intriguing talking points and a bounty of strange knowledge.

Parse the Web

MetaFilter (www.metafilter.com) is a clearinghouse of the most fun, newsworthy, and useful content churned out by the Internet. The site is staffed by a lively co-op of bloggers, who provide a bottomless supply of smart back-and-forth conversation. In a typical visit you might find a link to a site on a 1932 film so disturbing that some in the audience ran screaming from the theater, or notes from a thread on the best practical jokes ever.



HOWSTUFFWORKS Get the lowdown on just about anything, including how to fight off zombies.

Be a Know-It-All

Nothing impresses on a first date like interesting facts shared over a homemade soufflé and a bottle of Sangiovese. HowStuffWorks (www.howstuffworks.com)—a collection of explanatory articles penned by experts—can guide you through the process. Start with getting the date (How Online Dating Works), and then look up a recipe (Delicious Corn Soufflé) and some fancy wine talk (Wine Term Glossary). Spend the rest of your time boning up on conversation starters, like Zombie Self-Defense.

Dig into History

Digital Vaults (digitalvaults.org) is a sleek interactive collection of scanned documents and photos from the National Archives. Using an intuitive tag structure, you can bounce between topics and get up-close peeks at primary sources you'd normally just read about. Examine a childhood drawing of a sailboat by FDR, and then read a draft of the resolution to end slavery.

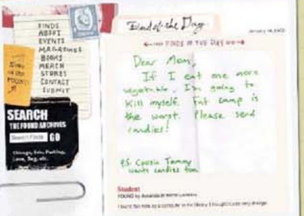
Think Critically

Can you predict who'll win *American Idol* by monitoring busy signals on the voting lines? The cerebral duo behind the Freakonomics blog (freakonomics.blogs.nytimes.com)—along with a cast of contributors—puts a unique, number-crunching spin on topics such as this. The bloggers delight in making readers see overlooked issues in a new light. You don't have to be an economics buff to enjoy posts on whether your good looks can hurt your earning potential.

DIGITAL VAULTS Explore national treasures and historical documents via an interesting visual interface.

SITES WE LOVE

It's a Strange, Strange World



Dear Mom,
If I eat one more vegetable, I'm going to kill myself. Fat camp is the worst. Please send candies!

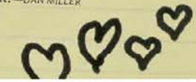
P.S. Cousin Tammy wants candies too

NOTE HOME Found Magazine lets you peek into the lives others through the notes they've left behind.

Found Magazine Make the voyeuristic thrill of digging through someone's private papers feel artsy and socially acceptable with Found (www.foundmagazine.com). The featured Find of the Day can be photos, doodles, letters, cocktail napkin poems, or other random scraps. The funny finds are priceless (a note from fat camp requesting candies), and some items are strangely affecting (a to-do list that reads "Quit Smoking. Join AA. Join the Church. Play tennis.").—HEATHER KELLY

Garfield Minus Garfield What would the long-running *Garfield* comic strip be without its fat feline protagonist? Turns out it would be a riotous—and very dark—story (garfieldminusgarfield.net) about a guy named Jon who lives alone and talks to himself a lot. The proprietor of Garfield Minus Garfield carefully selects classic *Garfield* strips and removes all traces of the titular cat. The site transforms a stale work of pop culture into a work of genius.—JASON SNELL

Cute Overload Need a quick pick-me-up? Cute Overload (www.cuteoverload.com) slaps funny captions on reader-submitted photos and videos of kittens, puppies, and other pets. The result makes me laugh out loud. Hey, you got a problem with that?—DAN MILLER

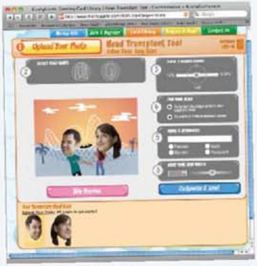


Have Fun with Your Photos

Sure, you can upload your photos to Flickr or Facebook and show them off to friends. But then what? Rather than just letting them sit around gathering digital dust, find interesting ways to share your images with others.

Brighten Their Day

Why not send your brother a birthday greeting that's as unique as he is? MushyGushy.com (www.mushygushy.com) offers funny animated cards featuring the head of someone you love (or hate). From party invites to musical montages, the site offers cards for just about any occasion. Simply upload a photo of yourself and/or the recipient, then use the online tools to frame the head, and add your customized message. The results are oddly mesmerizing.



MUSHYGUSHY Send animated cards with a truly personal touch.

Get Published by National Geographic

Do you have what it takes to be a photojournalist? Every day the photo editor for *National Geographic* (macworld.com/3790) picks a dozen user-submitted images to feature on the publication's Web site—a select few even make it into the pages of the monthly magazine. Together, the photos offer a beautiful and sometimes poignant glimpse into modern life. You can submit one photo per month. Be sure to read the detailed submission guidelines before you upload your image.

Explore Your Dark Side

Remember those motivational posters your guidance counselor seemed so fond of? Despair (macworld.com/3787) gives you the tools to create satirical parodies of those posters, using your own photos. Upload a photo, add your own antimotivational text, and the Parody Motivator Generator will design an 11-by-14-inch poster. You can download the resulting design to your computer or purchase a printed copy for $13.

Keep Up with Friends

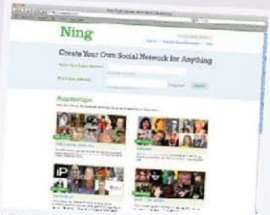
Companies are racing to strike it rich with the next Web 2.0 sensation. But with new social networking sites rising and falling in popularity every day, it can be hard to keep track of where all of your friends are posting this week. These sites will help you keep up.

Build a DIY Community

Rather than wait for a start-up to create a social networking site that caters to your niche, create your own through Ning (www.ning.com)—a Web-community site builder. Thanks to Ning's drag-and-drop simplicity, creating complex features like forums and custom groups takes just moments. Or search for a group that's already formed. You'll find online communities devoted to groups ranging from independent filmmakers to animal lovers to alternative energy advocates—there's even a community for Segway lovers. You have to fit in somewhere, right?

Be Everywhere at Once

Tired of logging in to several sites to see what your friends are doing? FriendFeed (www.friendfeed.com) lets you see what your buddies are up to on every popular social networking site—in one place. Wondering if Mary updated her YouTube collection with that video of you winning last weekend's arm-wrestling tournament? FriendFeed will tell you. Now you can waste time at work on one site rather than several.



NING Build your own social networking site for the topic you care about.

Search Twitter Tweets

Whether you're looking to buy or sell a product, word of mouth is a powerful tool. Acting as a search engine for Twitter conversations ("tweets"), Summize (www.summize.com) will keep you in the loop on what everyone is talking about.

Get Inspired

Even with all of the World Wide Web at your fingertips, it's easy to get into a creative rut. Get your imagination chugging again by visiting one of these right-brained sites.

Be More Colorful

Looking for the perfect palette for your next project? ColourLovers (www.colourlovers.com) offers a vibrant community of designers and artists who post and exchange colors, palettes, and patterns. You can search the database for the perfect paint shade, or catch up on the latest color fads. Adobe's kuler (kuler.adobe.com) is another great option. You can use color-picker tools to find complementary or secondary matches and import palettes directly into your Adobe programs.

COLOURLOVERS This site lets you explore color combinations created by other people, vote for your favorites, and download palettes

Discover Fab Fonts

MyFonts (www.myfonts.com) makes it easy to find the perfect font for your project at an affordable price. Want a font that expresses the whimsy of childhood or that has a retro '70s flare? Use the site's search feature. The site also offers helpful tools like What The Font, which scans the text on any image you upload and finds the closest matches in its database.

Find Free Images

It's easy to spice up your blog post on the history of electric blankets with some visuals. Just make a quick visit to PicApp (picapp.com/publicsite) and search for "electrical fire." This friendly search tool offers tons of free, ready-to-embed stock images that you can use legally.

Make a CD Cover

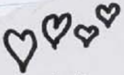
Sometimes to find your muse, you have to indulge in a little random creativity. Step back from whatever project has you stumped, and head over to Flickr's CD Cover Meme group (www.flickr.com/groups/cdcovermeme). The game picks a random band name, album title, and public Flickr photo for you to transform into a fake CD cover for the hardest-rocking fake band ever. You're sure to feel reinvigorated and inspired by the time you're done.

My sadness at your leaving the company is tempered by my excitement at taking your chair and computer speakers.

GREETINGS Find Hallmark too sappy? E-mailed greetings from Someecards have a dry sense of humor.

SITES WE LOVE

Useful Things



Free iTunes Store Downloads Every week, the iTunes Store offers free content—including songs, TV shows, maybe even a music video. I keep up by using the RSS feed from the Free iTunes Store Downloads Web site (macworld.com/3786), which tracks *all* free content on the iTunes Store.—DAN FRAKES

Cool Tools As the founder of MacOSXHints.com, which shows cool things you can do with OS X, I have a soft spot in my heart for similar sites on other topics. One of the very best is Kevin Kelly's Cool Tools (www.kk.org/cooltools), which highlights incredibly useful things—be they books, equipment, or Web sites. The people providing the write-ups test each featured item, so you know at least one person found them useful. I've found a wealth of handy tools here.—ROB GRIFFITHS

Someecards How do you congratulate someone for breaking up with that boyfriend you never liked? Send a card from Someecards (www.someecards.com). The site has an amazing selection of irreverent, funny, and downright strange greetings for just about every occasion, from Gay Pride weekend to social blunders. You can even have your favorite messages printed as traditional mailings.—KELLY TURNER

Summer Distractions for the Kids

Kids today are expected to come back to school not only with a fresh repertoire of campfire songs, but also with clear memories of everything they learned the year before. What's a parent to do? When your children are at loose ends, press your Mac into service.

Go Treasure Hunting

Geocaching is a great excuse for a geeky parent to have a lot of fun with the kids. You need a GPS device for these treasure hunts, but you can do them almost anywhere—in your hometown or on vacation. Just get location coordinates from Geocaching (geocaching.com) and then head out to find the treasure. Besides being fun, Geocaching helps kids explore concepts of mapping and geography.

Become Mad Scientists

What kid wouldn't find an 18-foot geyser of soda pop amusing on a hot summer day? See a video of how to do this (macworld.com/3781) and learn about other crazy science projects at SteveSpangler.com (www.stevespangler.com). If your crew is ready for something more advanced, check out *Make* magazine's online projects and kits (makezine.com/projects), including one that shows you how to make your own robotic insects with blinking LED eyes.

Build Killer Robots

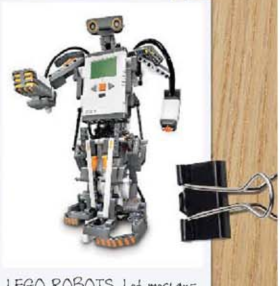
Keep older kids busy learning programming concepts and making cool robots, with a Lego Mindstorms NXT set ($250; mindstorms.lego.com). You'll find building guides and movies at Lego.com (macworld.com/3782) for inspiration. (Think home-security bot and potato-chip–delivery bot.) For further exploration, call your local science museum to see if it has a Lego-Mindstorms–themed camp.

Explore the World

When you can't get out of the house to see interesting locales in person, give your student a virtual tour. Some of our favorites include the Monterey Bay Aquarium site (macworld.com/3783) for live Web cams of sharks, sea otters, penguins, and more; NASA's Students page (macworld.com/3784) for games, as well as gorgeous space photos and videos that will satisfy any rocket-ship–obsessed kid; and National Geographic Kids (kids.nationalgeographic.com) for history- and nature-related games, crafts, and videos.

Find Summer Reading

If your kid loves to learn about how things work, cruise the National Science Teachers Association's index of recommended books (macworld.com/3785). You can sort by age, search keywords, and more. You'll find books your kids will ask for again and again.



LEGO ROBOTS Let mechanically inclined kids learn how to build their own robots.

SITES WE LOVE

Brain Food

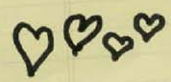
This American Life Every person has at least one good story, and *This American Life* (thislife.org) is where those stories get told. Ira Glass is the most lovable radio host out there, with a gift for finding the extraordinary in the ordinary. By the time I reach the office, I've heard stories of a woman who tried to train herself to become a superhero, or a man's experience of interviewing schizophrenics. It's a refreshing reminder that the human race is incredible.—BRIAN CHEN

TED Get inspired by some of the world's smartest and most creative people. TED—Technology, Entertainment, Design (www.ted.com)—is a unique conference and Web site that features thought-provoking 18-minute talks from a variety of speakers and performers. There's no bad place to start listening. Pick from categories such as most jaw-dropping, most inspiring, and funniest. Your iPod will thank you.—HEATHER KELLY

Bonddad The stock market has been *crazy* lately. The Bonddad Blog (bonddad.blogspot.com) is my favorite source of sanity. Run by a onetime bond broker, it looks at the markets (from a decidedly technical perspective), economic trends, and government policy. Entries are in plain English and provide sensible charts that help make sense of it all.—DAN MILLER

TED
Inspired talks by the world's greatest thinkers and doers
New on TED.com

CREATIVE PEOPLE Listen to short discussions with people who are changing the world.

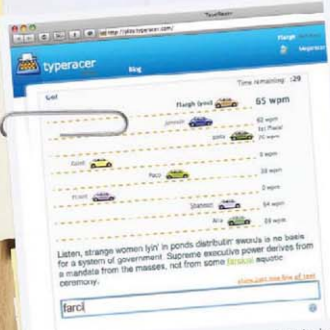


Play Time

Playing games on your Mac doesn't have to involve buying and downloading software—many games are available through your Web browser, and none of these cost a penny to play.

A Simple Shooter

The premise behind Desktop Tower Defense 1.5 (macworld.com/3789) is simple: protect your home from an almost never-ending line of "creeps" by setting up towers that can lob pellets, squirt liquid, throw darts, fire missiles, or blast freeze rays. The strategy comes from how you set up your towers—many players create intricate labyrinths to destroy their enemies. It's horribly addictive and loads of fun.



Listen, strange women lyin' in ponds distributin' swords is no basis for a system of government. Supreme executive power derives from a mandate from the masses, not from some farcical aquatic ceremony.

farci

TYPERACER Type fast and accurately to beat others to the finish line.

Test Your Typing

TypeRacer (www.typeracer.com) lets you test your touch-typing mettle against other players in a race to the finish line. Each time you type a word correctly, your vehicle will move incrementally. If you mess up, you have to go back and fix it—a losing move when you're competing with superfast typists. This one is ridiculously popular around our office.

Addictive Action

Imagine a side-scrolling platform action game akin to Super Mario World but featuring stick drawings. That's the premise behind Fancy Pants Adventures (www.fancypantsadventures.com). You have to maneuver through a world filled with traps, pitfalls, and creepy-crawly baddies out to get you. You can run and jump—if you land on top of one of your enemies, you'll knock it off the screen. You can also collect goodies to recharge your health and get points, open doors to explore hidden rooms, and more.

Sketch It

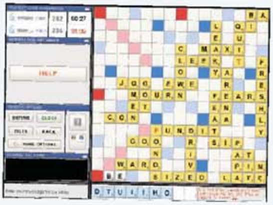
Line Rider (linerider.com) adds a bit of strategy to your doodles. You use a virtual pencil to draw slopes, hills, and curlicues, and then send a sledder through your design. If he has enough momentum, he'll make jumps, complete gravity-defying loops, and so on. The idea is to keep the character moving for as long as possible. Although the game requires that you be online to play, it saves your tracks locally, so you can go back and enjoy your creations later.

Show Off Your Vocabulary

Scrabulous (www.scrabulous.com), an online, free version of the board game Scrabble, lets you compete with others by creating words out of lettered tiles—racking up bonuses and points in the process. It features multiplayer gaming modes such as Blitz, where each round lasts only four minutes, and solitaire. Unfortnately, Hasbro recently shut down the popular Facebook version of the program.

Build Your Own Game

Why play other people's games when you can make one up yourself? Sploder (www.sploder.com) presents you with a construction kit for building your very own game. All of the games start off as an overhead-perspective 2-D shooter featuring futuristic-looking ships—but the sky's the limit when it comes to how you set up the play field, what your objectives are, and how you defend yourself. Sploder is particularly great for younger gamers hankering to get their first taste of game creation without jumping waist-deep into hard-to-understand code and scripting technology.



SCRABULOUS Compete against other wordsmiths to rack up points.

What's in Your Bookmarks?

Now that you've seen our list of favorite sites, go to macworld.com/3792 and tell us which sites you obsessively visit or couldn't get along without, and compare notes with other readers.

Needs NoteBook. Has NoteBook.

Stickies, scraps of paper, web clippings, meeting notes, reminders — take control of it all with Circus Ponies NoteBook, the award-winning application for managing information. Get organized using a familiar notebook interface, with pages and tabs, sections and subsections. "Clip" web research, e-mails and other content to your Notebooks for later reference. Create voice-annotated notes and review them from your computer or iPod. Diagram and sketch when words won't suffice. Find anything instantly using NoteBook's patented Multidex™. Share your Notebooks as PDFs or as websites. And much more. NoteBook has everything you need to get organized.

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www.circusponies.com/trialmw

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ACADEMIC SUPERSTORE Apple Store amazon.com MICRO CENTER Small Dog Electronics TEKSERVE

Office 2008 Survival Guide

Upgrade not going so smoothly? Find your answers here **BY KIRK MCELHEARN**

If you've recently upgraded to Microsoft Office 2008 (macworld.com/3345), you may like the productivity suite's new features, but you may also face a few conundrums: some things just don't work the way they used to, and others don't work at all. We talked to *Macworld* editors and scoured newsgroups and forums to find out which problems were plaguing users. Here are answers to some of the most common questions that came up.

Missing Macros

Q: Why won't my Office macros run anymore?

A: Macros, which let you perform multiple actions with a single mouse-click or keystroke, can save a lot of time. But Office 2008 doesn't support the Visual Basic for Applications engine that previous versions of Office used to run macros.

Now, if you open a file containing macros, you can choose to either remove or keep the (deactivated) macros (see "Macro Alert"). If you're working on a file that you know a colleague has added macros to, don't delete them—they'll still work if someone opens the file with a different version of Office.

If you truly need to use macros to get your work done efficiently, you have only two choices. Office 2008 provides limited support for AppleScript and Automator, so you can write your own scripts or workflows, or find some to download. For some sample scripts for Word, see "Automating Word with AppleScript" at macworld.com/3683. What's your other option? Stick with Office 2004 for now. In response to complaints, Microsoft has announced that the next version of Office for Mac will support macros, but that release is likely two or three years away.

Keeping Compatible

Q: Why do my Word documents have the words "Compatibility Mode" in the title bar?

A: All the Office 2008 programs use new default file formats. In Word, for example, the default file extension is now *.docx* instead of *.doc*. If you open a .doc file in Word 2008, the program lets you know that the file format is "compatible" with previous versions of Word but that it's not taking advantage of all of Word 2008's new features.

If you plan on sharing files with people who don't have Office 2008 (or Office 2007 for Windows), they won't be able to open files that have been saved in any of the new file formats. In the programs' Save dialog boxes, you can choose which format to use, and each program displays the compatibility of the older formats. You can change the default file format that Word and PowerPoint use for new files in either program's Preferences menu. In Word, for example, go to Word: Preferences, click on Save, and then choose Word 2007-2004 Document (.doc) from the Save Word Files As pop-up menu.

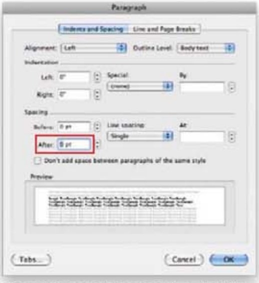
Spaced-Out Paragraphs

Q: Why is there extra space between paragraphs in my new Word documents?

A: By default, Word documents use the Normal style to determine the look of new documents. In Word 2008, that style includes a 10-point space between paragraphs. While it's probably better to use spacing like this than to add return characters, you can turn this feature off if you want. Choose Format: Style, select the Normal style from the list of styles on the left, and click on Modify. Then click on the pop-up menu at the bottom left of the window, and choose

ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX EBEN MEYER

Paragraph. In the Paragraph window that appears, go to the Spacing section and change the After field from `10 pt` to `0 pt` (see "Change Paragraph Spacing"). If you'd like to leave the spacing in between paragraphs of different styles, don't change this setting. Instead, select the Don't Add Space Between Paragraphs Of The Same Style option. Click on OK and then on Apply to see your changes.


Alignment: Left
Outline Level: Body text
Indentation
Left: 0"
Right: 0"
Special: (none)
By:
Spacing
Before: 0 pt
After: 0 pt
Line spacing: Single
At:
☐ Don't add space between paragraphs of the same style

Change Paragraph Spacing If you don't like the extra space that now appears by default between paragraphs in Word, change the After setting in this window to get rid of it.

Changing the Subject

Q: Why has Entourage stopped letting me edit subject lines in the e-mail messages I receive?

A: Microsoft removed this feature from Entourage, but it seems to have done so unintentionally. To put it back, download the Edit Subject AppleScript (macworld.com/3684) from the Entourage Help site.

Freeing Docked Toolbars

Q: I used to keep my Excel toolbars on the side of open windows, instead of at the top. Why can't I do this anymore?

A: Microsoft decided to attach the most commonly used toolbars to the tops of windows, perhaps to make its programs look more like some of Apple's programs. Some toolbars sit in documents' title bars by default. You can tell which ones by choosing View: Toolbars. The submenu contains a separator; the toolbars above the line stay attached to the title bar, and the rest float as before.

However, with the exception of each program's Standard toolbar, you can control-click on any toolbar and deselect the Dock Toolbar In Window option to make it float again. (You can also make this change by choosing View: Customize Toolbars And Menus and then deselecting the Dock option for any of the toolbars that allow this.)

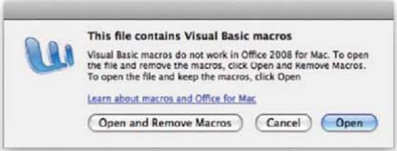
As for the Standard toolbar, you can make it disappear by selecting View: Toolbars: Standard, but if you want to get it to float, you'll need to create your own toolbar and copy some or all of the Standard toolbar's buttons. Custom toolbars you create are *not* docked in the program's title bar.

To do this in Excel, PowerPoint, or Word, choose View: Customize Toolbars And Menus. (You can't customize the toolbar in Entourage.) Click on New to create a new toolbar. In the Add A Toolbar window that appears, give it a name, and then click on OK. You'll see a one-button-wide toolbar floating somewhere on your screen. Next, make sure the toolbar you want to use (in this case, Standard) is displayed. Hold down the option key and drag the buttons from that toolbar to your new custom toolbar. (If you don't hold down the option key, you'll move the buttons; holding down option copies them instead.) When you've finished, click on OK in the Customize Toolbars And Menus window, and position your toolbar where you want. (If you don't see it, go to the View: Toolbars menu and select it.)

Phantom Toolbars

Q: I don't see *any* of my Word toolbars! Where did they go?

A: Since some of Office 2008's toolbars live in the title bar, you can hide them easily—or accidentally—by clicking on the oblong icon at a window's top right. If you click on the icon again, your toolbars should reappear.


This file contains Visual Basic macros

Visual Basic macros do not work in Office 2008 for Mac. To open the file and remove the macros, click Open and Remove Macros. To open the file and keep the macros, click Open

Learn about macros and Office for Mac

Macro Alert Wondering where your macros went? Office 2008 doesn't support them. You'll see this warning when you open a Word file that contains one.

Click on this button to hide toolbars if you want to reclaim space in the title bar, especially if you decide to display custom toolbars in other places. Note that doing so hides certain contextual toolbars (unless you've chosen to un-Dock them, as explained previously), such as the Reviewing toolbar that appears when you're in Word's Track Changes mode. These toolbars will show in the title bar if you click on the Hide Toolbar widget, but they won't display automatically as they normally do.

Tabs Begone!

Q: Can I get rid of the tabs at the top of my Word, Excel, and PowerPoint windows?

A: These tabs make up the Elements Gallery, which is designed to give you easy access to document elements, preformatted tables, charts, themes, and more. If you click on one of the tabs, the Gallery expands to show you its options (see "Inside the Elements Gallery"). You can hide the expanded view again either by clicking on the Gallery icon in the Standard toolbar or by choosing View: Elements Gallery.

While you may not need the Elements Gallery tabs in Word and Excel, the Elements Gallery in PowerPoint is a real time-saver. Regardless, you can't get rid of them in Excel or PowerPoint—apparently, no one at Microsoft thought that anyone would *want* to do this. In Word, you can make the tabs disappear by changing your view mode via the View menu. They don't appear when you're using Draft or Outline mode.

Pasting Problems

Q: I use Apple's iChat a lot to collaborate with colleagues. I used to be able to paste text from Word and PowerPoint into iChat during messaging sessions. Now, any text I paste like this shows up as a picture.

A: This problem existed in the early days of Office 2004, but it was later fixed. It's arisen again with Office 2008. The only workaround—until Microsoft fixes it once more—is to paste your text using iChat's Edit: Paste And Match Style command (or to use the unwieldy ⌘-option-shift-V shortcut).

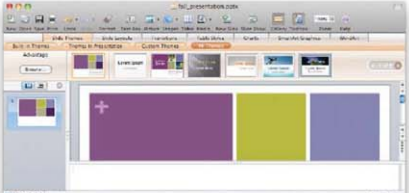
No Double-Clicking

Q: Some of my Office files won't open when I double-click on them. What's going on?

A: Office 2008 can have problems opening older files. The cause is probably the files' type and creator codes. (Older versions of Mac OS used these codes to keep track of which program to use when a user double-clicked on files.)

If you have this problem, you'll need to either choose the files from the File: Open menu or use a utility to remove the flawed type and creator codes. One such program is Everyday Software's Quick Change (payment requested; macworld.com/3685), which lets you change and erase type and creator codes for individual files or in batches. If you do this, though, you must make sure to add the appropriate extensions to the file names: *.doc* for Word files, *.xls* for Excel files, and *.ppt* for PowerPoint files.

Another problem arises when files are created in Word on a Windows computer and sent by e-mail. Many users can open these files only by choosing File: Open and then selecting them. In some cases, the aforementioned program will fix this problem, too. In others, you'll need to open such a file by choosing File: Open, make a change to the file, and then save it. After that, you should be able to double-click on the file in the Finder in order to open it.



Inside the Elements Gallery Click on one of the Elements Gallery tabs to see that tab's options. You might find many uses for the new features you find here. But even if you don't, you can't remove the tabs from the top of Excel and PowerPoint document windows.

TRY THIS

Browse on the Cutting Edge

Apple and Mozilla periodically publish updates to Safari and Firefox. But between releases, developers are constantly building versions that fix bugs, add features, and support new standards. If you want the latest and greatest in browsing technology, you can download and test prerelease versions without affecting your regular browsers. The catch? Since these builds don't undergo strenuous testing, they may crash or exhibit other bad behavior.

To try this with Safari, download the most recent version of its engine, WebKit (nightly.webkit.org). After you run the installer, you'll get a new program called WebKit, which has an icon resembling Safari's except that the face is purple and the border is gold (instead of blue and silver, respectively). This special shell combines all the features of your currently installed version of Safari with the newest WebKit additions. It doesn't replace Safari or affect any other programs that rely on WebKit, such as OmniWeb or Dashboard; if something doesn't work properly, you can go back to the current version of Safari and try the next day's build.

Firefox updates aren't available quite as frequently, but you can download the latest beta version of the next major release at macworld.com/3686. Because Firefox betas have the same name as the shipping versions, copy the beta into a separate folder, or rename the file so it doesn't overwrite your existing version.—JOE KISSELL

Customize the Palette

Q: Is it still possible to customize the Formatting Palette?

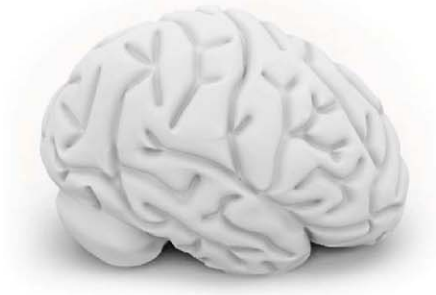
A: The Formatting Palette (View: Formatting Palette) is a free-floating window that lets you access many Office controls usually hidden in menus. And it packs even more tools now that Microsoft has combined it with the Toolboxes. Access the Object, Citations, Scrapbook, Reference Tools, Compatibility Report, and Project Palette features by simply clicking on the other buttons you see at the top of the palette in Word, Excel, or PowerPoint.

In Office 2004, you could customize only the Formatting Palette (by selecting Tools: Customize: Customize Formatting Palette). In Office 2008, however, you click on the curly arrow button at the top right of the palette to change settings for the Formatting Palette, the Object Palette, Reference Tools, and the Compatibility Report. ⌧

Kirk McElhearn writes about more than just Macs at Kirkville (www.mcelhearn.com).

ICON BY PAUL HOWALT

Your email program does not have one of these:



Ours does.

Imagine an email program that was smart enough to observe and learn how you handle your email. Like offering to reply to certain types of email messages using a response you've previously sent. Or giving you the option to auto-file a message you've read based on how you've filed similar messages in the past. What if you could defer a message from your inbox for a few days or weeks, so that it magically reappears later when you're ready to deal with it? What if this program had an amazing junk mail filter that would leave your inbox devoid of spam? What if this program was as familiar and easy to use as Apple Mail?

After three years in development, we've finally created that program. Outspring Mail is the newest email client for Macintosh. We've taken the best features of existing email programs and coupled them with our patent-pending intelligent functions to create a program that will make your email chores far easier. And since this is a current-generation application, it supports major email protocols including POP, IMAP, SMTP and SSL. It also runs natively on the latest Macintosh computers and OS X Leopard. But don't just take our word for it. Check out the details at www.outspring.com.

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Convert Video for Any Device

Make your DVDs and other videos play on an iPod, iPhone, or Apple TV **BY JONATHAN SEFF**

The iTunes Store may be a great place to stock up on video content for the iPod, the iPhone, and the Apple TV. But why spend extra money when you've already got a vast collection of DVDs, home movies, and other video files at your fingertips? With the help of some free or low-cost software, you can convert these videos into compatible files that you can enjoy in the living room, on the train, or at the gym.

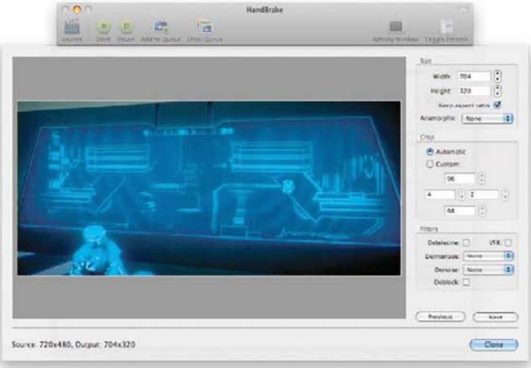
Rip DVDs

Before you dive in, remember that this is a gray area, legally speaking. Because ripping commercial DVDs circumvents the copy-protection system employed on these discs, the legality of using this type of software is questionable—even if you own the DVD and are ripping it only to watch it in another form.

For this task, we recommend using the free HandBrake 0.9.2 (handbrake.fr). This most-recent version supports OS X 10.5 only, but you can download an earlier version that works with 10.4.

Open or Decrypt DVD Insert your DVD and launch HandBrake. To make it easier for iTunes to accept your file, open HandBrake's preferences and select the Use iPod/iTunes Friendly (.m4v) File Extension For MP4 option in the General section. Also select the option to Use Chapter Markers For MP4 to preserve the chapters from your DVDs by default.

From the navigation sheet that appears, click on the DVD's name and then click on Open to scan the disc. HandBrake should automatically pick the movie—the longest title on the disc—but if not, select it from the Title pop-up menu.



Width: 704
Height: 320
Keep aspect ratio ☑
Anamorphic: None
● Automatic
○ Custom
96
4
2
68
Detelecine: ☐
VFR: ☐
Deinterlace: None
Denoise: None
Deblock: ☐

Source: 720x480, Output: 704x320

HandBrake Sizing In HandBrake, you can change the output size to fit your needs.

If HandBrake can't read the disc, download a free copy of MacTheRipper 2.6.6 (www.mactheripper.org) and rip an unencrypted version of your DVD to your hard drive. If that doesn't work, as may happen with newer DVDs, you can access a newer version of MacTheRipper by joining the Web site's forums and contributing money toward the software's development. Then launch HandBrake and open the VIDEO_TS folder of the disc you've extracted.

Pick a Preset Files have different limits for resolution and bit rate depending on the encoder used and the hardware you'll play them on. Luckily, HandBrake includes presets for all common Apple devices, using the H.264 codec by default (which typically gives you better-quality video at lower bit rates).

To access them, click on Toggle Presets at the top of the HandBrake window (if you see only a few items listed, select Presets: Update Built-In Presets). Depending on which device you're converting for, choose one of the following presets: Apple TV, iPhone / iPod Touch, iPod High-Rez, or iPod Low-Rez. Each one will create an H.264-encoded file, but with different settings (video bit rate, output dimensions, and so on).

Tweak Your Settings In my experience, the bit rates HandBrake chooses for its defaults are usually higher than they need to be, especially if you're going to watch a movie on an iPod or iPhone screen. If space is at a premium on your device, test out encoding with lower bit rates—in fact, you can experiment with several different settings without encoding an entire movie each time by testing them on just one chapter. To do so, pick the same number in the

Chapters area—for example, Chapters: 3 to 3. You'll even see the duration of the chapter so you know how long of a section you're encoding.

For the iPhone or iPod touch, if you plan to use the device's double-tap-to-zoom feature, consider using a height higher than whatever HandBrake picks to go along with a width of 480 pixels. To do so, click on the Picture Settings button in the lower right corner of HandBrake's Video tab, and make sure Keep Aspect Ratio is selected in the window that opens. Now click repeatedly on the up arrow next to the height measurement until the height is close to 320 (you may not be able to reach that number), and then click on the Close button (see "HandBrake Sizing"). But keep in mind that a larger frame size means a larger file size as well.

After you've picked your video settings, you'll need to pay a visit to the Audio & Subtitles tab. Once you're there, make sure that HandBrake has selected the proper language track in the Track 1 pop-up menu, and leave the rest of the settings as they are. When ripping a DVD for an Apple TV, HandBrake's preset includes both an AAC and an AC3 audio track (AC3 preserves a DVD's 5.1-channel surround-sound audio track). If you don't need the AC3 track, you can change the options in the Codecs pop-up menu to rip only AAC, which will save you a little space in the resulting file.

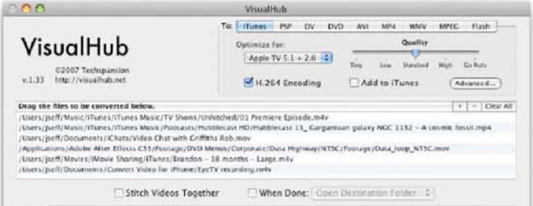
Finally, if you plan to view any of your ripped DVDs in more than one place—on your iPhone and your Apple TV, for example—you should consider ripping your files in a format that will serve multiple needs. Setting the iPod High-Rez preset to include AAC and AC3 audio, for example, will give you a file that's slightly bigger than it needs to be for an iPhone, but with a high enough bit rate and frame size to look good on a TV (with the added bonus of the surround sound track). You can even save your own presets after experimenting to find what works best for you.

HandBrake includes presets for ripping DVDs for Apple devices, using the high-quality H.264 codec.

Encode You're ready to rip. Enter a file name in the File field, and click on Start. Depending on the movie's length and your computer's speed, this can take several hours (H.264 encoding is very processor-intensive).

For TV Episodes If you want to rip several elements from one DVD—TV show episodes, for example—choose the settings you'll want for all episodes, and find all the titles that are similar in length. Pick the first title you want, name the file, and click on the Add To Queue button at the top of HandBrake's window. Repeat this for other episodes, giving each a unique name. When you're done, click on Start.

The other thing to keep in mind, especially with TV shows on DVD, is the fact that some may have an *interlaced* picture—one in which the odd and even fields of a frame alternate rapidly, rather than displaying progressively from top to bottom. Interlacing looks fine on CRT TVs, but the result on an LCD or plasma TV can be ugly motion artifacts. To rectify the problem in HandBrake, you can choose one of the Deinterlace options after clicking on the Picture Settings button (for more information, visit the HandBrake Deinterlacing Guide at macworld.com/3735).



VisualHub
To: iTunes PSP DV DVD AVI MP4 WMV MPEG Flash
VisualHub
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v.1.33 http://visualhub.net
Quality
Tiny Low Standard High Go Nuts
Advanced...
+ − Clear All
Edit...
Start

Optimize for: Apple TV 5.1 + 2.0

☑ H.264 Encoding ☐ Add to iTunes

Drag the files to be converted below.

/Users/jseff/Music/iTunes/iTunes Music/TV Shows/Unhitched/01 Premiere Episode.m4v
/Users/jseff/Music/iTunes/iTunes Music/Podcasts/Hubblecast HD/Hubblecast 15_ Gargantuan galaxy NGC 1132 – A cosmic fossil.mp4
/Users/jseff/Documents/iChats/Video Chat with Griffiths Rob.mov
/Applications/Adobe After Effects CS3/Footage/DVD Menus/Corporate/Data Highway/NTSC/Footage/Data_loop_NTSC.mov
/Users/jseff/Movies/iMovie Sharing/iTunes/Brandon – 18 months – Large.m4v
/Users/jseff/Documents/Convert Video for iPhone/EyeTV recording.m4v

☐ Stitch Videos Together ☐ When Done: Open Destination Folder

Save To: /Users/jseff/Desktop/VisualHub Files/

VisualHub Converting files on your hard drive for use with Apple's devices is a snap with VisualHub.

Convert Hard-Drive Videos

Of course, videos aren't limited to DVDs. Your hard drive is probably brimming with video files you might like to carry with you. If you can open a file in QuickTime, you can use the Movie To Apple TV, Movie To iPhone, or Movie To iPod export command in the $30 QuickTime Pro to create a video that will play on those devices. But Apple's conversion doesn't support all file types, doesn't have a batch-encoding feature, and won't let you change its settings. For more flexibility, check out Techspansion's $23 VisualHub 1.34 (version 1.1.7 ♦♦♦♦½, macworld.com/2390), which includes options for encoding files meant for the Apple TV, the iPhone, and specific iPod models.

Launch VisualHub, click on the iTunes button in the To section at the top (see "VisualHub"), and then select both the device you're targeting (or choose All Devices for more flexibility) in the Optimize For pop-up menu and the H.264 Encoding option. Next, drag a file or a number of files into the center pane and click on Start. If you're not happy with the results, you can move the Quality slider to High or Go Nuts. As with HandBrake, VisualHub lets you choose which types of audio tracks to include with Apple TV encoding. ☒

Senior News Editor **Jonathan Seff** rarely watches actual DVDs anymore.

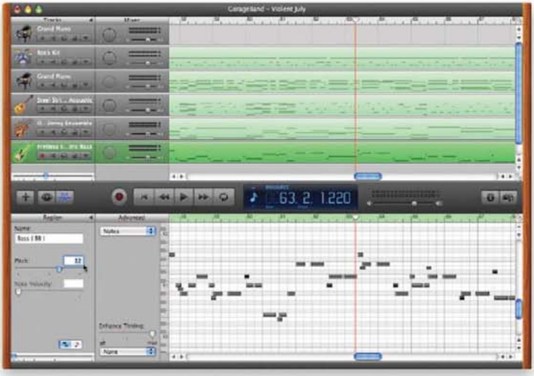
The Mac Backup Band

Playing alone doesn't have to mean playing solo **BY CHRISTOPHER BREEN**

It can be hard to find a group of musicians to accompany you in midnight moments of musical inspiration. Thankfully, you needn't roust your bandmates out of bed if you have a Mac and some good software.

Invoke the Magic

GarageBand '08 (part of the $79 iLife '08 and included on every new Mac) has many talents, including the ability to create a backup band as large or small as your Mac's processor can handle. Its Magic GarageBand feature automatically creates a five-piece band (usually made up of bass, drums, guitar, keyboards, and a solo instrument) that plays in one of nine musical styles (Blues, Rock, Jazz, Funk, and Country, to name a few). Although you can play along with Magic GarageBand, you'll get more out of it by moving its work into GarageBand's standard interface to modify the results.



Bump Up the Bass When importing a Standard MIDI File, you may need to transpose the bass track up an octave.

Create and Export a Song Start by creating a new Magic GarageBand file, selecting a style, and clicking on the Audition button. When the stage loads, select the lead (Melody) instrument on the far right of the stage and click on None. This takes the lead—the part that you'll want to play—out of the mix. Then click on each of the other instruments and choose the accompaniment that you'd like to play along with: a wah-wah guitar rather than a clean Strat, for example. When you're done, click on the Create Project button, and GarageBand will lay out your creation as separate real-instrument tracks in a new project.

Change Key and Tempo Now click on the Note icon that appears in GarageBand's LCD and choose Project from the pop-up menu. Within this view you can change the key and tempo of the project—useful, for example, when you find jamming along with the slow blues project in A flat too challenging or the tempo too fast to keep up with. You can also play with the arrangement by moving sections around. And, of course, you can mute or delete tracks if all you're looking for is a grooving drumbeat on which to base your tune.

Edit the Parts Wishing you could substitute the clean guitar break in the bridge for the wah-wah that plays in the rest of the tune? Unfortunately, you won't find any of Magic GarageBand's parts in GarageBand's loop browser. But, thankfully, there's a way to add them.

These parts are stored within the .wand template files found in /Library/Application Support/GarageBand/Magic GarageBand. To edit one, right- or control-click on the .wand file from which you want to extract a part—04. Country.wand, for example—and choose Show Package Contents from the contextual menu that appears. In the resulting window, open the Media folder and you'll find all the variations of the Magic GarageBand project's tracks (these are .caf files). If you're running Leopard, you can audition one of these tracks by selecting it and pressing the spacebar to invoke Quick Look. Find the one you want to use and option-drag it to the desktop to make a copy (the snippets are numbered in a logical way—Synth Lead 3.caf, for example—that reflects their order in the tune). Go back into GarageBand and delete the snippet you are replacing, and then drag the alternative snippet from your desktop into its place. You may have to adjust the substitute snippet's volume.

Yes, it sounds as cool as it looks.

Record, podcast, chat & more with the Snowball, the best-sounding USB mic on the planet.

Searching for an easy-to-use USB microphone that delivers pro audio results? Meet the Snowball,™ the ultimate in digital sound.

Whether you're podcasting, recording a guitar in your living room, chatting online or narrating your latest family vacation movie, the Snowball can capture it with detail unheard of before in a USB microphone. That's because no other USB mic on the market has the fidelity, features or style that make the Snowball the finest professional plug n' play mic available – from Blue, the leader in high-end microphones and audio components.

Not only is the Snowball ideal for podcasting, it excels in recording music via GarageBand & other multitrack recording software, as well as voice recognition software, VoIP software such as Skype and Vonage, or iChat/AIM.® In short, the Snowball can capture anything and make it sound better than any other USB mic, all in one beautifully designed package that's compatible with Mac or PC. Best of all, there are no complicated drivers to install–just plug the Snowball in, click a few settings and you're ready to go. It's that simple. Plus, the Snowball includes its own custom adjustable mic stand and ww cable, allowing you to capture audio in virtually any environment.

Check out the Snowball. It's one cool creativity tool.

Blue Microphones
Sound Thinking™

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Mac Universal

Windows Vista
Windows XP

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Get Out of the Garage

If you're tired of the Magic GarageBand tunes, it's time to move on to Standard MIDI Files. These are data files that tell MIDI instruments and software synthesizers (like the ones built into GarageBand) what notes to play, when to play them, and what those instruments should sound like. Standard MIDI Files are readily available on the Web; Harmony Central (macworld.com/3780) maintains a list of links, and a Google search for *MIDI files* will turn up many more sources.

You can drag Standard MIDI Files into GarageBand and it will split them into their appropriate instrument parts—drums, bass, guitar, and keyboards, for example. If the MIDI file is configured properly, GarageBand should assign the right instrument sound to it. If not, each track may use the same sound, but the name of the correct instrument should appear at the beginning of the track in the MIDI data area. Your job is to then select each track individually in the Tracks column (double-click on the first one to open the Track Info pane), make sure the Software Instrument tab is selected, and choose the appropriate software instrument for the track.

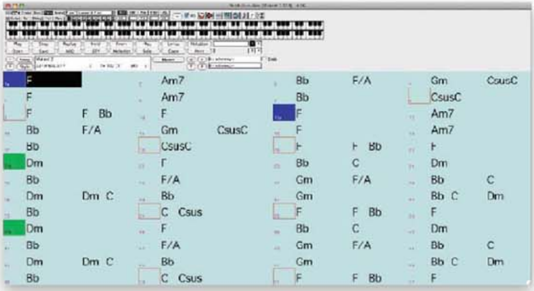
Note that when importing Standard MIDI Files, GarageBand often pitches the bass part an octave too low. To fix that, double-click on the MIDI data that appears in the bass track and, in the Region area below, type **12** in the Pitch field and press the enter key (see "Bump Up the Bass").

Roll Your Own

A Standard MIDI File of someone else's tune is a good rehearsal and jamming tool, but what if you'd like to play along with tunes you've put together? Sure, if you have the ability, you could use GarageBand's league of software instruments to record all the parts yourself or attempt to approximate your tune by piecing together audio loops, but there's another option: Band-in-a-Box.

Magic GarageBand creates a five-piece band that you can modify within GarageBand's standard interface.

Create Your Song PG Music's $129 Band-in-a-Box 12 Pro (www.pgmusic.com) is billed as intelligent music-accompaniment software. In practice, this means that you enter chords into a kind of lead sheet, and the program generates an accompaniment made up of as many as seven parts (Bass, Piano, Drums, Guitar, Solo, Strings, and Melody). Then you can tell the program where the verses, chorus, and bridge fall, and it will create transition fills to bridge these parts of the arrangement. You can choose from a wide variety of styles to accompany it (see "Band-in-a-Box").



F		Am7		Bb	F/A	Gm	CsusC
F		Am7		Bb		CsusC	
F	F Bb	F		F		Am7	
Bb	F/A	Gm	CsusC	F		Am7	
Bb		CsusC		F	F Bb	F	
Dm		F		Bb	C	Dm	
Bb		F/A		Gm	F/A	Bb	C
Dm	Dm C	Bb		Gm		Bb C	Dm
Bb		C Csus		F	F Bb	F	
Dm		F		Bb	C	Dm	
Bb		F/A		Gm	F/A	Bb	C
Dm	Dm C	Bb		Gm		Bb C	Dm
Bb		C Csus		F	F Bb	F	

Band-in-a-Box Like GarageBand, Band-in-a-Box can automatically create accompaniment for your tune in just moments—perfect for practicing on your own.

Import into GarageBand Because Band-in-a-Box uses QuickTime's thin-sounding, out-of-date synthesizer for its internal sounds, you'll probably want to work with GarageBand's superior synthesizer sounds instead.

To do so, choose File: Save Standard MIDI File. You'll end up with a Standard MIDI File using the current instrumentation, style, key, and tempo. Create a new music project in GarageBand with the same key, time signature, and tempo, and then drag the Standard MIDI File you saved into GarageBand's main window to split that file into separate software instrument tracks.

Note that GarageBand won't notate any meter changes you created in Band-in-a-Box—a switch from 4/4 to 2/4 and then back to 4/4, for example—in its Notation or MIDI views because it doesn't support such changes. (You'll *hear* the meter changes, however).

Edit the Parts Once the song is in GarageBand, you'll also want to raise the bass track 12 steps; consider switching the drum sound to Rock Kit and adding a good measure of reverb to fill out the track; and if you have a squeaky string track, drop it an octave (enter **-12**), apply a different string sound, add reverb and a light chorus, and then mix it into the background.

Some of the parts may sound too square or too embellished. You can change their feel by double-clicking on a track's MIDI data to expose the editor below. In the Advanced area, try applying one of the timing settings—1/8 Note if you want to cut down on embellishments by stripping out notes that don't fit in this stricter grid, or 1/16 Swing Light if you'd like the track to have a more interesting, rhythmic feel. ☒

Senior Editor **Christopher Breen** also holds down the keyboard position in his seven-piece band, System 9.

Probability and Statistics: Revealing the World's Laws

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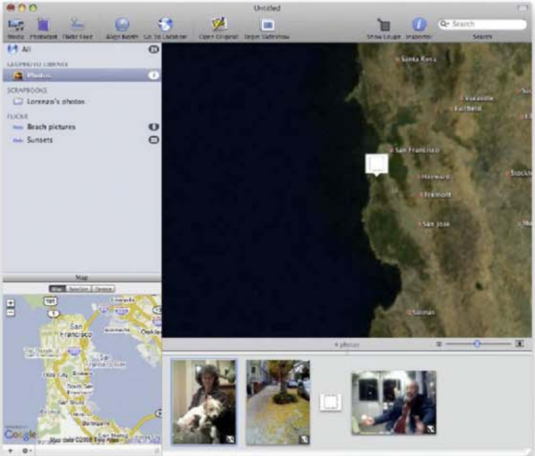
Map Your Photos

Explore your image collection in new ways with geotagging **BY BEN LONG**

Your digital camera is a diligent archivist. Each time it captures an image, it records the time that the photo was taken and the settings that were used—details you can employ later to track down a photo in your collection. For most of us, though, it's easier to remember *where* we took a picture than it is to remember *when*. Although most digital cameras don't possess this sort of location awareness (one exception is the camera built into Apple's iPhone 3G), you can easily embed the coordinates after the fact through a process called *geotagging*.

Geotagged images give you a new way to sort and organize your photos. For example, you can search for pictures shot in a particular locale or create an interactive map of your latest vacation. But before you can take advantage of any of these features, you have to get your images tagged. Fortunately, there are now several Mac tools that can get the job done (for GPS devices that can make the process even easier, see "Geotagging Hardware").



Geophoto Ovolab's Geophoto lets you import images from iPhoto and use a map interface to pin them to specific locations.

Add Geotags

When you geotag an image, you're simply storing latitude and longitude coordinates for that image in the file's metadata. This means you'll first need to get those coordinates.

Using Google Earth One of the easiest ways to do this is with Google Earth (♦♦♦♦; macworld.com/2379), Google's free, three-dimensional, navigable model of the globe. Simply download the software, use the search and navigation tools to locate the destination of your photo, and then add a placemark (Add: Placemark) to get exact coordinates.

You'll also need a program that can insert those coordinates into your files. While there are lots of programs that do this, I prefer Stanton Software's free Geotagger (macworld.com/3746), which works in conjunction with Google Earth. Once you've pinpointed a location in Google Earth, drag the photos you want to tag with those coordinates onto the Geotagger application icon. Geotagger will launch, retrieve the latitude and longitude from Google Earth, and embed it in the metadata of your images.

From iPhoto If you're an iPhoto user, you'll need to geotag your images with Geotagger *before* you import them into iPhoto. For photos already in your iPhoto library, you can add geotagging data with the help of Ovolab's $25 Geophoto (www.ovolab.com). Like Google Earth, Geophoto presents you with an interactive globe. Click on the Media button to import images from your iPhoto or Aperture library, and then drag them onto the map to tag them with specific locations (see "Geophoto"). The globe view doesn't get as close to a location as Google Earth does; however, you can use the small Google Map panel on the left to zoom in closer and locate specific positions.

Once you've placed your images, select Item: Update Original With Location Information to add the GPS data to the original photos in your iPhoto library. This data stays with the newly updated files even if you export the photos to use elsewhere. Geophoto also works as a viewing program; you can see your images scattered about the globe or perform geography-based searches.

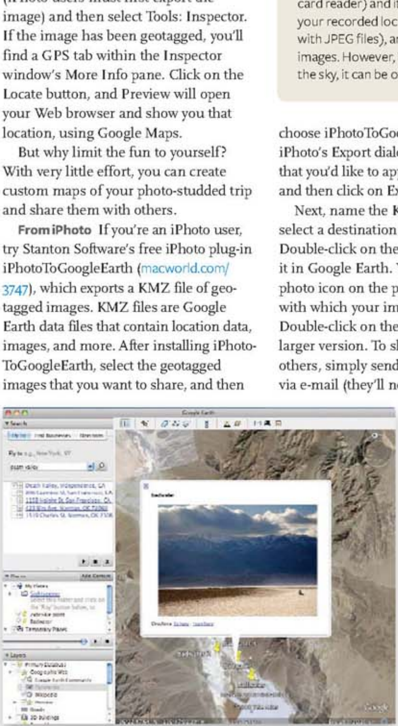
View and Share Geotagged Images

Once you've gone to the trouble of geotagging your images, there are a lot of ways to exploit the location data now embedded inside them. If you're running Mac OS X 10.5, for example, you can simply open the image in Preview (iPhoto users must first export the image) and then select Tools: Inspector. If the image has been geotagged, you'll find a GPS tab within the Inspector window's More Info pane. Click on the Locate button, and Preview will open your Web browser and show you that location, using Google Maps.

But why limit the fun to yourself? With very little effort, you can create custom maps of your photo-studded trip and share them with others.

From iPhoto If you're an iPhoto user, try Stanton Software's free iPhoto plug-in iPhotoToGoogleEarth (macworld.com/3747), which exports a KMZ file of geotagged images. KMZ files are Google Earth data files that contain location data, images, and more. After installing iPhotoToGoogleEarth, select the geotagged images that you want to share, and then choose iPhotoToGoogleEarth from iPhoto's Export dialog box. Enter a name that you'd like to appear on the images and then click on Export.

Next, name the KMZ file, and then select a destination on your hard drive. Double-click on the resulting file to open it in Google Earth. You should see a photo icon on the planet at each location with which your images were tagged. Double-click on the photo icon to view a larger version. To share your trip with others, simply send them the KMZ file via e-mail (they'll need to have Google Earth installed). When they open it up, they'll see your images pinned to the correct locations (see "Road Map").



Road Map Once you've created a KMZ file, anyone with Google Earth can open it and see your images pinned to their correct locations.

From the Finder If you're not an iPhoto user and you still want to see your geotagged images in Google Earth, use Houdah Software's HoudahGeo (www.houdah.com), which automatically pins your images to their correct locations. At €25, HoudahGeo is pricey. But if you have a GPS device, the program can also pull a log file from it and use that to tag your images. And like iPhotoToGoogleEarth, the program will export a KMZ file that you can share with others.

From Flickr The popular photo-sharing site Flickr (www.flickr.com) also supports location metadata, and it lets you view your images on a map or search for images tagged with particular locations. To activate this feature, log in, select You: Your Account from the top of the page, and then select the Privacy & Permissions tab. Click on the Edit button next to the Import EXIF Location Data option and follow the directions. Now, when you import geotagged images, you can use the Map tab to see the photos displayed in their proper locations.

By the way, Flickr includes its own geotagging interface. However, once you've done this, you can't easily get your tagged data out and apply it to your original image files—which means you can't use it with other applications. It's better to geotag your images before uploading them to Flickr.

Ben Long is the author of *Complete Digital Photography*, fourth edition (Charles River Media, 2004).

Geotagging Hardware

Although software solutions let you geotag your images once you get home, they also require a lot of work. If you're serious about geotagging, you may want to consider investing in a device that can automate the process. If you already have a GPS unit, you can use HoudahGeo to synchronize route information with your photos.

If you don't have a GPS unit, ATP Electronics' GPS PhotoFinder (www.photofinder.atpinc.com) will do something similar. You simply turn on this $90 device and wait for it to lock on the GPS signal. Make sure your digital camera's clock matches the time displayed on the PhotoFinder, and get going. The PhotoFinder records a log of everywhere you go.

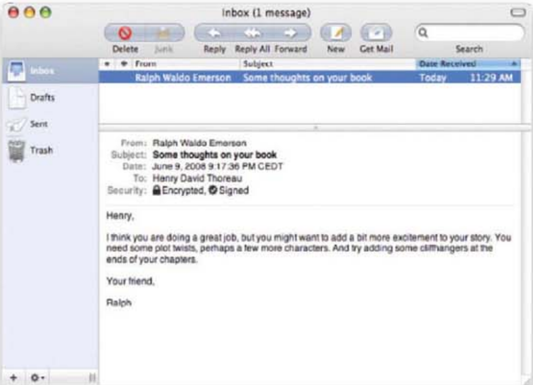
When you're done shooting, insert your camera's SD card into the PhotoFinder (or plug in an external card reader) and it will match the time of each photo to your recorded location (currently, the device works only with JPEG files), and add latitude and longitude to your images. However, I've found that, depending on its view of the sky, it can be off by as much as 100 yards.

PhotoFinder This device keeps track of where you've been and then updates your photos for you.

Transferring Files Securely

How to safely send or receive files when you're on the road **BY KIRK MCELHEARN**

If you're traveling and you need a key document, such as the latest draft of your business plan or the presentation your colleagues just finished, there are many ways you can get it: e-mail, iDisks, and online file services such as SendThisFile (www.sendthisfile.com) or YouSendIt (www.yousendit.com). But if the document you need is superconfidential, you may not want to trust any of those file-transferring tools, because they aren't secure; if someone really wanted to, he or she could probably intercept and open the file somewhere along the line. There are several alternatives, however, and most of them are quite simple.



Ralph Waldo Emerson Some thoughts on your book Today 11:29 AM

From: Ralph Waldo Emerson
Subject: **Some thoughts on your book**
Date: June 9, 2008 9:17:36 PM CEDT
To: Henry David Thoreau
Security: Encrypted, Signed

Henry,

I think you are doing a great job, but you might want to add a bit more excitement to your story. You need some plot twists, perhaps a few more characters. And try adding some cliffhangers at the ends of your chapters.

Your friend,

Ralph

Receiving Encrypted E-mail When you receive encrypted e-mail, the Security header in Mail shows you that the message has indeed been encrypted.

Sending Securely

E-mail is the most straightforward way to transfer files or information in text form, but it has its limitations: most ISPs restrict the size of e-mail messages to 10MB or 20MB. If you have files of moderate size that you want to transfer, e-mail is the best solution, and it's easy to do so securely. The key is to set up your mail program to encrypt the message you're sending, and then make sure the person at the other end can decrypt it.

To work with encrypted e-mail, you first need to obtain a certificate—a way of proving who you are and providing a private key for encryption. You can get a certificate for free from Thawte's Personal E-Mail Certificates page (macworld.com/1664). Create an account there, choose the appropriate browser and level of protection, and then download the certificate and add it to your keychain. (For more information, see "Keep Your Secrets with Mail" [macworld.com/2972]. That story explains how to set up Mail to send and receive encrypted messages; the procedure is similar for Entourage, but check its help files for details.)

If you don't want to bother with obtaining and setting up certificates, there's another way to send encrypted files by e-mail: you can put them in an encrypted disk image and then attach it to your message. Apple's Disk Utility (/Applications/Utilities) can help you do this with just a few clicks. Open Disk Utility and choose File: New: Blank Disk Image. Type a name in the Save As field; specify the size, format, and level of encryption (128- or 256-bit); and click on Create. Then enter the password you want to use. For Volume Format, use Mac OS Extended, *not* Mac OS Extended (Journaled). If you use journaling, the minimum size of the disk image is 10MB, and only 1.7MB of that is available; the journal takes up the rest of the space. Without journaling, you can create a 5MB disk image (that's the smallest available size) and you'll be able to use all of its space. (For more details on this process, check out "Encrypt Files for Safety," macworld.com/2425.)

After you've created the encrypted disk image, drag your files to it and unmount the virtual disk. You can then send the disk-image file as you would any other e-mail attachment. There's just one hitch: to open it, your recipients will need the password you specified when you created the disk image. You can't send that password in an e-mail message; that would defeat the purpose of the encryption. You'll need to either agree on a password beforehand, or exchange one over the phone.

If you need to send and receive encrypted files often, you might want to get a dedicated encryption program; check out "Mac Security Essentials," page 54, for more on that.

You can also transfer files through an instant messaging client, such as Apple's iChat. Unfortunately, while iChat can encrypt your text, audio, and video chats, it can't encrypt files you send via instant messages. You can, however, create an encrypted disk image (as described above) and send that via iChat, or you can use a third-party encryption program: the $100 PGP Desktop (www.pgp.com) includes a file-transfer encryption module for iChat and AOL Instant Messenger.

On the Receiving End

While you can rely on e-mail and iChat to *send* files securely from the road, it can be harder to *receive* them securely. If you need to get files from your office or home Mac, perhaps someone there could send them to you, using one of the techniques outlined above. But, as Murphy's Law often dictates when you're in this situation, that's not always possible. Here are some alternatives.

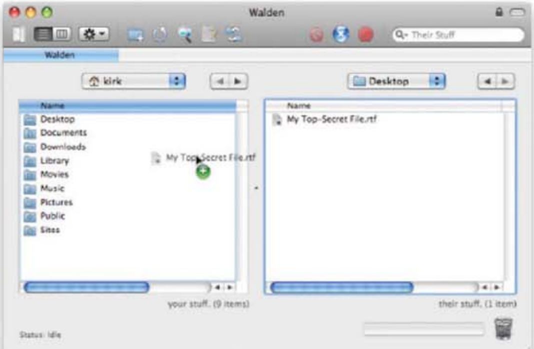
The first thing to try is Leopard's Back to My Mac feature, which lets you access your Mac at home as though it were on a local network. After you've set up and activated Back to My Mac, your home Mac will show up in the Shared section of the Finder sidebar. You can then mount the Mac, browse its files, and copy what you want; all file transfers are secure.

However, Back to My Mac is notoriously flaky; it works best with Apple's AirPort routers, and you have to be punctilious about setup. If you're going to rely on it for remote file access, be sure to test the setup before you leave for your trip. If it works, it's as transparent as sharing files with a Mac in the next room. (For more on setting up Back to My Mac, see "Inside Back to My Mac" at macworld.com/3793.)

If Back to My Mac isn't a viable option, you can set up the remote Mac for secure FTP (SFTP) and then simply connect to it and transfer your files over the Internet. Such file transfers are both easy and encrypted. To enable SFTP, go to the Sharing preference pane and select Remote Login (if it's not on already); you don't need to turn on file sharing.

Then you'll need to configure your Mac so you can connect to it remotely. If your router has a fixed IP address, you can use port forwarding. For SFTP, you have to forward port 22; see your router's documentation or setup tools for information on doing so. If you don't have a fixed IP address, you can still connect to your Mac by setting up a dynamic DNS service such as DynDNS. ("Remotely Access Your Mac," at macworld.com/2491, explains how.)

If you have files of moderate size to transfer, e-mail is the best solution, and it's easy to do so securely.



Transferring Files by FTP Transferring files with an FTP client—even using secure FTP—is as simple as dragging and dropping them.

Once you've made your Mac accessible, you'll need an FTP client program, such as Panic's $30 Transmit (www.panic.com/transmit) or any other FTP program that handles SFTP (most do), to access your files. Launch the program and enter the IP address—either your fixed address or the one you got from the dynamic DNS service. Enter the user name and password for the user account on your Mac, select SFTP from the Protocol menu, and then click on Connect. You'll see a list of your folders, and you can browse them and copy any files by dragging them to the other side of Transmit's window.

One thing to keep in mind: All this requires that your Mac be on when you want your files. But you may not want to leave your Mac running all day long. You can use the Schedule button of the Energy Saver preference pane to set your Mac to wake up and go to sleep at certain times. If you're not sure when you'll need it, set it to stay awake during the day. If you know you'll want to access your Mac at more specific times, you can set it to wake for, say, two hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon.

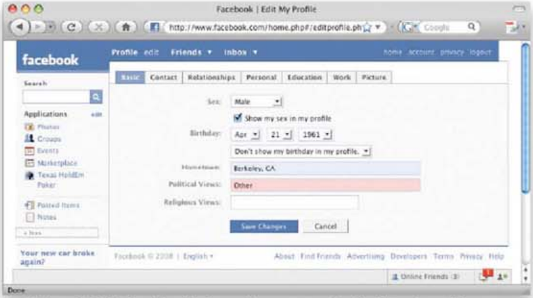
No matter which of these methods you choose, you'll be able to send or access files when you're on the road, secure in the knowledge that no snoops sniffing around a network can read your data. If your files are confidential, you can rest assured that they'll remain that way. ☒

Kirk McElhearn writes about Macs and more at Kirkville (www.mcelhearn.com).

The Etiquette of Social Networking

How to make friends online without alienating anybody **BY DAN TYNAN**

Social networks like Facebook (www.facebook.com) and MySpace (www.myspace.com) have turned many social norms inside out. Your online friends may not be friends offline—and you may not be exactly whom you claim to be, either. How to approach strangers online, handle unwelcome solicitations, or make real friends out of virtual ones is stuff your parents probably never taught you. Here's how etiquette experts would politely navigate the worlds of Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter.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Save Changes
Cancel
Your new car broke again?
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Online Friends (3)
Done

Sex: Male

☑ Show my sex in my profile

Birthday: Apr 21 1961

Don't show my birthday in my profile.

Hometown: Berkeley, CA

Political Views: Other

Religious Views:

Don't Show My Birthday If you'd rather not let everyone on Facebook know how old you are, you can go to the Edit My Profile page and opt to hide your age.

Q: I've got a strict policy about "friending": I invite only people I know well. And sometimes people they know. And occasionally complete strangers whose profiles sound cool. Is there anything wrong with that?

A: Overaggressive friending is the most common social-networking faux pas. After all, these networks were made to facilitate new connections.

Social media consultant Ariel Waldman (arielwaldman.com) says that it's usually fine to friend people you don't know just to make their acquaintance. "Otherwise you wouldn't really be networking," she says. But it depends on the service. Friending someone you don't know on Dodgeball (a location-based service that lets you see other users who are physically nearby) is creepier than doing so on Twitter, which doesn't give away users' real-life locations.

In fact, Facebook and LinkedIn automatically suggest people you might know, based on whoever's already in your network. In general, you should already have some kind of link to the person you want to meet—even if he or she is merely a friend of a friend—and a valid reason for making the connection.

A sneaky way to avoid unwelcome invitations is to accept an offer, and then quietly unfriend that person soon after.

Q: I'm scrupulously honest in most things, but my online profile—well, let's just say it's a best-case scenario. Am I required to be totally honest when describing myself?

A: It depends on what you mean by *totally*. A little embellishment may be OK, but stretch the truth too far, warns Samantha Von Sperling, director of Polished Social Image Consultants (www.socialimage.net), and you'll put your reputation at risk. The solution is to be honest—don't edit your picture so you look like Brad Pitt or Angelina Jolie—but selective about the information you share. For example, Facebook requires that you supply your birthday at signup. But you can hide it: in the Edit My Profile page's Basic tab, select Don't Show My Birthday In My Profile from the drop-down menu.

"Saying I'm in my 30s when I'm 37 is fine," Von Sperling says. "But it's not OK to say I'm in my 20s. If I start lying about how old I am, how much money I make, or how much I weigh, sooner or later someone will find out and I will look like an idiot."

Q: I'm getting friend requests from people I moved 3,000 miles to get away from. How do I tactfully decline their invitations?

A: The first rule of social networks is you're never required to say yes.

"You can say 'No thank you' or simply not respond," notes Claudia Caporal, an urban etiquette and lifestyle consultant in Miami. "Behavior that might be considered rude in person isn't necessarily rude online."

Of course, if you run into that person on the street or at your college reunion, you may have some explaining to do. "If they ask you whether you got their invitation, tell them that you don't really spend that much time on Facebook anymore," she says. "You can find a compromise answer that doesn't hurt their feelings."

A sneakier way to avoid unwelcome invitations is to accept the offer of friendship, and then quietly unfriend that person a few days later, says Kim Gregson, an assistant professor of communications at Ithaca College. On Facebook, go to your Friends list and click on the little *x* to the right of a name. No notification will be sent; you'll simply disappear from that person's network. If he or she notices and asks about it, plead ignorance. "If someone is following their list of friends that closely, you probably don't want to be their friend anyway," Gregson says.

Q: I've been using Facebook since college, so I have lots of friends and have posted lots of personal photos. Now I've got a job, and my office colleagues want to join my network. How do I keep my boss from seeing those old pictures of me dancing on a bar in a miniskirt and cowboy boots?

A: One way to handle the work-friend conundrum is to use a professionally oriented network such as LinkedIn for your work colleagues and a more casual one such as Facebook for everyone else.

If your networks are mixed—if you have social contacts on LinkedIn or business colleagues on Facebook—and want to move someone from one network to the other, you can. Programs such as Professional Profile let you transfer personal contacts from LinkedIn to Facebook. Although LinkedIn doesn't have similar tools, you can still add friends to your business network, either by importing their names from an online e-mail service, such as Gmail (🖱🖱🖱🖱; macworld.com/3524) or Yahoo Mail (🖱🖱🖱½; macworld.com/3523), or by exporting them as a group from OS X's Address Book and then uploading the resulting VCF file to LinkedIn. You can then delete them from Facebook.

The other option is to segregate friends within the same service. Start by selecting the Privacy link in the upper right corner of your Facebook home page, and then selecting Profile. In the Basic tab, select Edit Photo Albums Privacy Settings. Select a photo album, and, under Who Can See This?, select Customize. You can then decide who can and can't see your photos.

facebook
Upload Resume
OR
Linked in

Professional Profile Using a Facebook program such as Professional Profile, you can move buddies who appear on your LinkedIn business network to Facebook, where they belong.

friendfeed
friends
rooms
me
everyone
friend settings
Share something
Search

FriendFeed With a service like FriendFeed, you can consolidate your friends' feeds from all your social networks into one Web interface.

Q: I've got accounts on Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn, Friendster, Flickr, and Twitter, and I've recently started Plurking and Powncing. I only sleep three hours a night, yet my virtual buddies think I'm being rude because I'm not keeping up with them hourly. Help!

A: While services like Friendfeed (friendfeed.com), Chirp (www.chirp.com), and OneSwirl (www.oneswirl.com) can help you keep track of multiple social networks in one place, maybe you should instead step away from the keyboard. The problem with social networks is that they can encourage you to shortchange people outside your virtual life, says Rabbi Shmuley Boteach (www.shmuley.com), author of *The Broken American Male* and host of the TLC series *Shalom in the Home*.

"Should you be spending hours each day corresponding with some person you've never met?" asks Boteach (whose Facebook profile boasts more than 1,700 friends). "Maybe you should be cultivating more important relationships. With all this time you spend on social networks, who are you neglecting as a result?"

When not indiscriminately poking people on Facebook, **Dan Tynan** tends his blog, Tynan on Technology (www.dantynan.com).

Mac OS X Hints

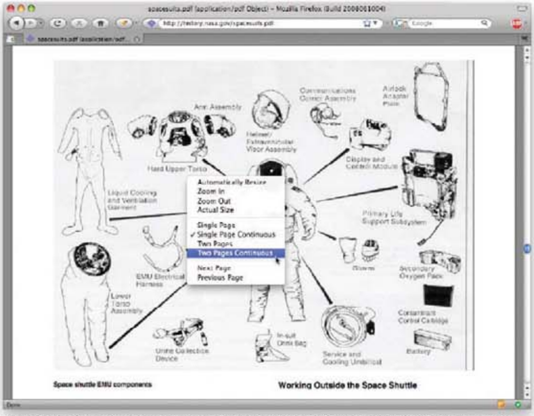
The insider tips you won't get from Apple **BY ROB GRIFFITHS**

View PDFs in Firefox 3

If you've been using Firefox 3 (macworld.com/3806), you may have noticed one glaring hole: instead of letting you view PDFs directly in the browser, it forces you to download them when you click on a PDF link. To get around this behavior, check out the free, new firefox-mac-pdf plug-in (macworld.com/3807), which works on both PowerPC and Intel Macs. (It requires Mac OS X 10.4 or later.)

Click on the site's Install PDF Plugin link and then select the Allow button that pops up at the top of your browser window. (Firefox blocks installation until you give it permission.) Restart Firefox, and you'll now be able to view PDFs directly in the browser. (Oddly, the plug-in is called Quartz PDF Plugin in the Firefox Extensions screen.)

While perusing a PDF within Firefox, you can right-click on it to access a contextual menu with a number of viewing options, including controls for zooming and toggling between single pages and spreads (see "PDFs in Firefox").


spacesuits.pdf (application/pdf Object) – Mozilla Firefox (Build 2008061004)
Automatically Resize
Zoom In
Zoom Out
Actual Size
Single Page
✓ Single Page Continuous
Two Pages
Two Pages Continuous
Next Page
Previous Page
Arm Assembly
Helmet/ Extravehicular Visor Assembly
Communications Carrier Assembly
Airlock Adapter Plate
Hard Upper Torso
Display and Control Module
Liquid Cooling and Ventilation Garment
Primary Life Support Subsystem
EMU Electrical Harness
Secondary Oxygen Pack
Lower Torso Assembly
Contaminant Control Cartridge
Urine Collection Device
In-suit Drink Bag
Service and Cooling Umbilical
Battery
Space shuttle EMU components
Working Outside the Space Shuttle

PDFs in Firefox A free plug-in lets you view PDFs within Firefox 3, instead of having to download and open them in Preview.

You can also employ Firefox's built-in zoom features (via the View menu or using keyboard shortcuts), and navigate up and down with the arrow keys.

I HELPED THE
HELP
DESK

Have a Hint to Share?

Go to MacOSXHints.com to submit it. This column was based on tips from Pascal Balthrop, Burkhard Heil, Joey Papperello, and anonymous contributors. Each month, the author of our favorite tip receives the *Help Desk* mug.

Search Text with Safari 3

There are lots of ways to find words and phrases within text files. You can use Spotlight, of course, and then open those files with a text editor such as TextEdit or Bare Bones Software's free TextWrangler (★★★★★; macworld.com/0378). Or if you're Terminally inclined, you can open and search text files in `vi`, `nano`, or `emacs`. But here's an alternative you may never have considered: Safari (★★★★½; macworld.com/3611).

Apple introduced an enhanced find mode in Safari 3. When you search for words on a Web page, Safari turns the background gray, highlights all matching words against a white background, and shows the currently selected match against a bold yellow background. These visual cues make it easy to spot all of the matches on a page while keeping the surrounding text readable.

But who says you have to use these sweet find features only on a Web page? Safari can also handle most plain-text

MUG PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER BELANGER; ICON BY PAUL HOWALT

files (those created in plain-text mode with a program like TextEdit). In Safari, select File: Open File to launch the document. If Safari doesn't recognize your file, locate it in the Finder, press and hold ⌘-option, and drag the document onto Safari's Dock icon.

Once Safari has opened the file, press ⌘-F, enter your search terms, and enjoy the result (see "Safari Search"). Pressing ⌘-G highlights the next match, and ⌘-shift-G moves to the previous match. There are some limits—Safari is not happy about opening multimegabyte files, and if it finds more than 100 matches for your search term, it will not highlight them all at once. While Safari's find mode can't replace Spotlight's or TextWrangler's powerful search capabilities, it could come in handy if you need to quickly run a simple search on a text file.

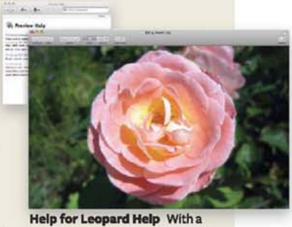
POWER TIP OF THE MONTH

Get Help Out of the Way

Among all the nice changes introduced in Leopard, one not-so-nice change is the way it implements the Help system. Whenever you call up Help, a floating window opens in the foreground, refusing to move to the background and obscuring other open windows. That means you have to slide the Help window out of the way or constantly minimize it to the Dock. It's a real pain—especially if you work on a notebook or use a smaller display.

Thankfully, Apple has included a hidden preference that allows you to change this behavior. To set Leopard's Help windows to "nonfloating" mode, open Terminal and type `defaults write com.apple.helpviewer NormalWindow -bool true` into the window. Quit and relaunch any running programs to force the change to take effect in those applications.

The next time you summon Help, the window will switch to the background, just like most other OS X windows (see "Help for Leopard Help"). One note: because the Help program is a faceless background application, you won't be able to use ⌘-tab or the Dock to move this window to the front. To bring Help to the foreground, you'll have to click on the actual window. If for some reason you want to return Help to its default behavior, repeat the above command but change `true` to `false`.



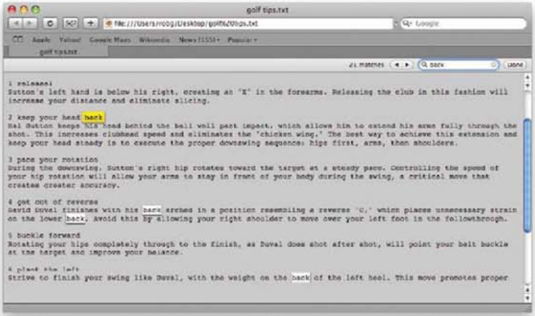
Help for Leopard Help With a simple Terminal command, you can relegate Leopard's Help window to the background.

iTunes Conversion Tricks

Even if you prefer your music in a certain format, there are times when stray file types find their way into your iTunes library. Perhaps a friend sends you one of his band's new songs in a different format. One way to change a song's format is to use iTunes' built-in converter (Advanced: Convert Selection To *fileformat*). The exact wording of the menu item depends on your iTunes import settings, which you can choose by selecting iTunes: Preferences, going to the Advanced pane, and clicking on the Importing tab. For instance, if your Import Using pop-up menu is set to AAC Encoder, the item will read Convert Selection To AAC.

But this menu item has a couple more tricks up its sleeve. Suppose you saved your buddy's song to your desktop, and you want to import it into iTunes in the correct format. Simply hold down the option key, then watch as the menu item (here, it's Convert Selection To AAC) changes to Convert To AAC. Choosing this brings up a standard OS X file-selection dialog box; navigate to your music file and click on Open, and iTunes will convert the song to your preferred format while importing it into your iTunes library. The imported song is stored in your iTunes folder.

If you don't want your converted song to end up in that folder, you can store it elsewhere. Using the file-selection dialog box to navigate to the song you want to convert, press and hold the option key before clicking on the Open button. This brings up another file-selection box, allowing you to choose a new destination. The song will still end up in your iTunes library; it just won't be stored in the default location.



1 release:
Sutton's left hand is below his right, creating an "X" in the forearms. Releasing the club in this fashion will increase your distance and eliminate slicing.

2 keep your head back
Hal Sutton keeps his head behind the ball well past impact, which allows him to extend his arms fully through the shot. This increases clubhead speed and eliminates the "chicken wing." The best way to achieve this extension and keep your head steady is to execute the proper downswing sequence: hips first, arms, then shoulders.

3 pace your rotation
During the downswing, Sutton's right hip rotates toward the target at a steady pace. Controlling the speed of your hip rotation will allow your arms to stay in front of your body during the swing, a critical move that creates greater accuracy.

4 get out of reverse
David Duval finishes with his back arched in a position resembling a reverse "C," which places unnecessary strain on the lower back. Avoid this by allowing your right shoulder to move over your left foot in the followthrough.

5 buckle forward
Rotating your hips completely through to the finish, as Duval does shot after shot, will point your belt buckle at the target and improve your balance.

6 plant the left
Strive to finish your swing like Duval, with the weight on the back of the left heel. This move promotes proper

Safari Search Safari can find words and phrases in text files, highlighting all of the matches at once.

Enable Private Browsing—Fast

Safari's private-browsing feature limits the tracks you leave while you're poking around the Web. In private-browsing mode (Safari: Private Browsing), Safari stops adding Web pages to the history file, removes items from the Downloads window, doesn't save autofill information, and keeps searches from being added to the recent queries menu in the search box. This is handy if you're using a public Mac, or if you prefer not to leave lots of data bits behind as you surf.

Whenever you choose Private Browsing from the menu, a dialog box pops up, explaining what the feature does and asking for confirmation. To skip this box, hold down the option key before selecting the item from the menu; this removes the ellipsis (…) that comes after its name, causing the selection to take effect immediately.

You can also create a keyboard shortcut that does the same thing. Open the Keyboard & Mouse preference pane and select the Keyboard Shortcuts tab. Click on the plus key (+), set the Application pop-up menu to Safari, type `Private Browsing` in the Menu Title box, and enter your desired key combination in the Keyboard Shortcut box (I used control-option-P). Click on Add.

When you switch back to Safari, you should see two Private Browsing entries under the Safari menu—if you don't, relaunch the program. The one with the ellipsis is the original menu item, which requires you to confirm that you want to enable the feature; the other is the entry you created, which lets you instantly access private browsing. Press your chosen shortcut keys—control-option-P, in my case—and you'll be in private-browsing mode.

Find Files by Name

If you tend to pack folders with multiple versions of similar files—different design variations, for instance—finding the right document can take some time. Here's a fast way to locate a file by name, even if you keep the folder sorted by date with newest files on top.

Scan the top of your list for a document that has a name similar to the one you're looking for, select it, and then press the tab key. When you press tab, the Finder automatically hops to the next file based on sorting by name, regardless of what overall sort order you've applied to that folder. If you press shift-tab, the Finder selects the previous file based on sorting by name. (This trick does not work if you're using column view.) You should find the file you need in no time flat.

Senior Editor **Rob Griffiths** runs the MacOSXHints.com Web site.

WHAT'S ONLINE

Copy File Paths There are a number of options for viewing or copying the path to a selected file or folder in the Finder (macworld.com/3803).

Tweak Firefox 3's URL Bar Change the way Mozilla's newest browser behaves when you click in the URL bar (macworld.com/3804).

Add More Desktop Colors Have you grown bored with the solid-colored desktop backgrounds Apple provides? Add your own hues to the mix (macworld.com/3805).

ICON BY PAUL HOWALT

OS X 101

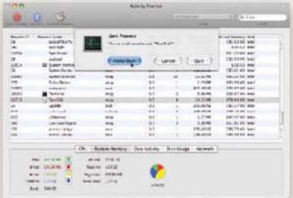
The Many Ways to Quit

There are several ways to quit Mac programs. Some of them are not obvious—especially if you're accustomed to using Windows.

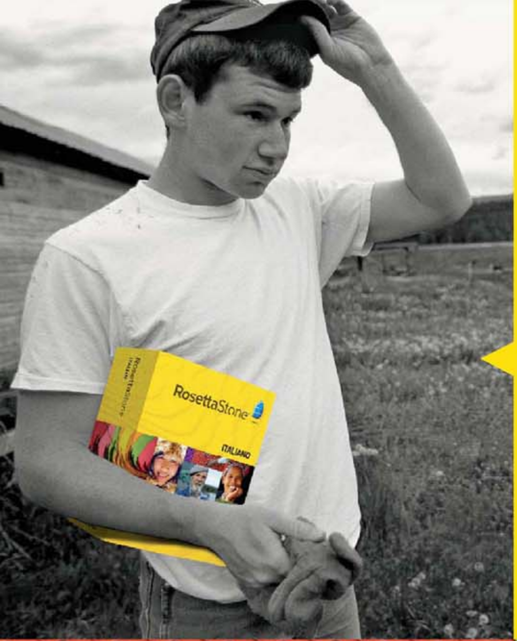
Menus and Shortcuts Nearly every Mac program offers a Quit command under its application menu—for instance, Safari: Quit Safari. (Some background-only programs and certain Java applications don't.) From the keyboard, ⌘-Q is a near-universal shortcut for quitting. If the program demands attention before it can quit (for example, the document contains unsaved changes), it will first ask if you're sure you want to quit.

Closing Versus Quitting If you're switching from a PC, you may be used to quitting programs by clicking on a window's close box; the Mac equivalent is the small red dot in the upper left corner of the window. But on a Mac, closing all open windows usually won't quit that program—OS X applications can continue to run even if there aren't any open windows. There are exceptions: usually, if the program can have only one window open at a time (as is the case with System Preferences, Dictionary, and Calculator), closing it will quit the program. But there are exceptions to the exceptions—Address Book and iCal continue to run even if you close their single windows.

Emergency Quitting If *nothing* happens when you try to quit a program, you can force-quit it: switch to a program that's still responsive, and press ⌘-option-escape. This brings up the Force Quit dialog box. Select the stuck program on the list, then click on Force Quit. You can also force-quit programs via the Dock. Click and hold on the problem program's Dock icon to bring up its menu. Assuming that the system knows the program is stuck, you should see a Force Quit option at the bottom. One other avenue is to launch Activity Monitor (in the /Applications/Utilities folder), select a program, and click on Quit Process, then Force Quit (see "Forceful Quitting").



Forceful Quitting Try quitting stubborn programs in Activity Monitor.



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Mac 911

Solutions to your most vexing Mac problems **BY CHRISTOPHER BREEN**

Directly Access the Downloads Folder

Q: When I used Safari running under Tiger, my downloads would go to the desktop. Now that I'm using Leopard, they go into the Downloads folder. I know that my desktop is cleaner now, but I don't like having to open my Downloads folder whenever I want to get a file I've downloaded. Is there some way to turn this off?

Charles Bilkin

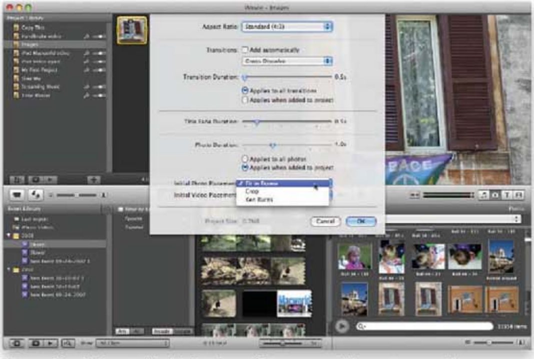
A: Yes, there is. Just open Safari's preferences; click on the General tab; and, from the Save Downloaded Files To pop-up menu, choose Other. In the sheet that appears, navigate to the Desktop folder in your user folder and click on Select. Files you download will now appear on the desktop.

But before you do that, consider this: Perhaps you can have both easy access to your downloaded files *and* a clearer desktop. To achieve that, enter an address like this in Safari's Address field, replacing *yourusername* with the name of your user account:

`file:///Users/yourusername/Downloads`

Drag the small icon of the Downloads folder that appears just to the left of the address into the Bookmarks Bar and name it something like Downloads. Now, when you want quick access to files you've downloaded, just click on this new Downloads bookmark, and the Downloads folder will open in the Finder.

Have a problem? Go to the Mac 911 forum (macworld.com/2467) for help with your misbehaving Mac or applications.


Aspect Ratio: Standard (4:3)
Transitions: Add automatically
Cross Dissolve
Transition Duration: 0.5s
Applies to all transitions
Applies when added to project
Photo Duration: 1.0s
Applies to all photos
Applies when added to project
Initial Photo Placement
Initial Video Placement
Fit in Frame
Crop
Ken Burns
Cancel
OK

Sharper iMovie Images iMovie's Ken Burns effect can cause still images to appear blurry.

Similarly, in Safari's Downloads window you can quickly get to your downloaded file by clicking on the magnifying-glass icon next to its name. The Finder comes to the fore with the Downloads window open and your file highlighted (unless it's a disk-image file that was automatically opened, in which case clicking on this icon takes you to the window that shows you all the mounted volumes on your Mac). I also make it a point to drag the Downloads folder into a Finder window's Sidebar so that I can quickly open it from any Finder window.

Capture Crisper Screenshots

Q: I've watched several of the *Macworld* videos and wondered how you create your crisp, clear screenshots of various applications. I use Ambrosia Software's SnapzProX to capture my actions on screen and then put them into iMovie to create the tutorial. But no matter what settings I use in iMovie, screen captures seem to come out blurry.

Mark Thomas

A: First, make sure that the Ken Burns effect doesn't affect your images—you want them at their native size, not blown up. To do that in iMovie '08, choose File: Project Properties; in the resulting sheet, choose Fit In Frame from the Initial Photo Placement pop-up menu and click on OK (see "Sharper iMovie Images"). In iMovie HD, click on the Media tab, choose the Photos tab at the top of the window, select an image, and click on the Show Photo Settings button. In the small window that appears, move the Size slider all the way to the left so that the Size field displays 1.00, and then disable the Ken Burns Effect option.

Next, if you're capturing small images—icons or tiny selection areas—you'll want to increase their size when capturing them so that they fill the frame. In SnapzProX, I do this by capturing small stills at 400 percent. This helps ensure that when I import the stills into iMovie HD, iMovie doesn't blow up a capture of, say, 200 by 200 pixels so that it becomes a fuzzy mess. Snapz has some way of enlarging images so that they look sharp when blown up and then packed down again to fit an iMovie frame.

Bugs & Fixes

BY TED LANDAU

iPhone Syncing Problem If the contacts on your iPhone are only syncing from the Mac to the iPhone, overriding any changes you make to them on the iPhone, try completely removing iTunes from your Mac and reinstalling it by downloading a fresh copy from Apple's Web site. Another potential fix is to launch iSync, select Preferences from the iSync menu, and click on the Reset Synch History button. While a sync reset should leave all your data intact, it's best to play it safe and back up your data before you proceed.

A Cache-All Fix Deleting the cache files on your drive can remedy various Internet-related symptoms, from problems with Mail to crashes in iChat. This removes unwanted or corrupt settings that an application otherwise continues to use. Apple Support advises going to the Library/Caches folder of the home directory and deleting its contents. If that doesn't work, several third-party utilities offer options as to the subsets of your caches you might want to delete. Try Maintain's Cocktail (macworld.com/0886) or Northern Softworks' Leopard Cache Cleaner (macworld.com/0213).

App Store Solutions If a third-party iPhone application is crashing when you launch it, try restarting the iPhone. If that doesn't help, check for and install any updated versions of the application. If it continues to give you problems, consider removing it from your iPhone. To make sure the application doesn't return to your iPhone, either deselect it in iTunes' list of applications to sync to your iPhone, or control-click on the application in iTunes and select delete. For more detailed instructions, go to macworld.com/3802.

Senior Contributor **Ted Landau** is the founder of MacFixIt (www.macfixit.com). Share your problems at bugs@macworld.com or on Macworld.com's Mac 911 forum.

Update Boot Camp Video Drivers

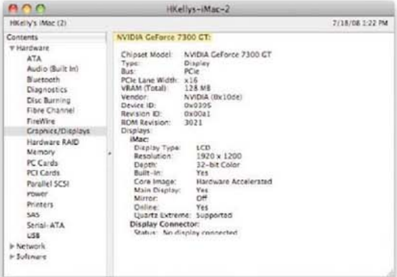
Q: I have one of the first Mac Pros and have two monitors plugged into it. The ATI Radeon HD 2600 XT graphics card in it was producing weird lines on screen, so I replaced the card with the Nvidia GeForce 8800 GT. Video looks great on my Mac, but now I've got a problem with Windows. I've installed Vista under Boot Camp, and when I boot into it, I can use only one of my monitors—the other stays black. Vista's Displays Settings control panel is no help because it tells me I have a generic VGA adapter.

Don Phillips

A: There are a couple of solutions. The first is to be sure that you've installed the latest Boot Camp update—you'll find a link to it on Apple's Boot Camp support page (www.apple.com/support/bootcamp). These updates include support for recent drivers.

However, it's possible that you'll install a graphics card newer than one of these updates supports. In that case, you'll want to look for a Windows driver that works. In the case of this specific card, I found one on Nvidia's Web site (www.nvidia.com). After installing the driver on my Boot Camp Vista installation, I right-clicked on the Vista desktop and chose NVIDIA Control Panel from the contextual menu. In the window that appeared, I chose the Set Up Multiple Displays entry. In the resulting pane, I selected the Configured Independently From Each Other—Dualview option to extend the Vista desktop across my two monitors.

What if you have a Mac with a video card that isn't supported by either a Boot Camp update or an official driver? While working in Windows, travel to LaptopVideo2Go (www.laptopvideo2go.com), search for your video card (you can find its name in System Profiler in the Graphics/Displays area), and download one of its modified drivers (see "ID Your Video Card").



```
NVIDIA GeForce 7300 GT:

Chipset Model:    NVIDIA GeForce 7300 GT
Type:             Display
Bus:              PCIe
PCIe Lane Width:  x16
VRAM (Total):     128 MB
Vendor:           NVIDIA (0x10de)
Device ID:        0x0395
Revision ID:      0x00a1
ROM Revision:     3021
Displays:
  iMac:
    Display Type:     LCD
    Resolution:       1920 x 1200
    Depth:            32-bit Color
    Built-In:         Yes
    Core Image:       Hardware Accelerated
    Main Display:     Yes
    Mirror:           Off
    Online:           Yes
    Quartz Extreme:   Supported
  Display Connector:
    Status:  No display connected
```

ID Your Video Card The Graphics/Displays area in System Profiler can tell you everything you need to know about your installed video card.

ICONS BY PAUL HOWALT

Use an AirPort Base Station with Windows

Q: I have an AirPort Extreme Base Station connected to both my Windows desktop computer and an Apple laptop. I have no problem with my laptop, but I can't seem to get my Windows computer on the Internet. I'm prompted for a key code to access the Base Station, but the Base Station's password doesn't work. How can I use the Base Station with my Windows computer?

Via the Internet

A: Your job is to determine exactly which string of code your Windows machine needs to access the Base Station. Apple's AirPort Utility program will show you the way.

Launch AirPort Utility (found in the Utilities folder within the Applications folder), select your Base Station, and click on the Manual Setup button. From the Base Station menu, choose Equivalent Network Password, and a sheet will appear with the information you need.

If you configured the Base Station so that it uses WEP encryption, that sheet will display a hex-equivalent password. This is the key code that Windows wants. You can highlight this text string, copy it, and then paste it wherever you like.

If instead you used a more up-to-date form of encryption—WPA/WPA2 Personal—the sheet will reveal the "real" WPA password as well as its hex equivalent. Give the real password a go instead of entering that hex string.

Add 802.11n to an Old Mac

Q: I have three Macs networked at home through an AirPort Extreme Base Station. The MacBook and Intel iMac communication is as fast as greased lightning, but communication with the 2.1GHz iMac G5 is much slower. With the laptop, Intel iMac, and AirPort Extreme Base Station using 802.11n and the iMac G5 using 802.11g, is there a way to upgrade the older iMac to the faster wireless speed?

Frank Blank

A: The easiest way to do this is to eschew wireless on the old iMac and run an Ethernet cable from the Base Station to the iMac. Your iMac's network performance will increase dramatically, and its 802.11g wireless won't slow down the rest of the network, as happens when you mix these varieties of 802.11.

However, if you don't feel like completely rearranging your home so that the Base Station and the iMac sit near each other, you can upgrade the iMac to 802.11n, but not internally. Apple's *n*-flavored wireless cards don't work with older iMacs.

There are ways to add 802.11n to older Macs. If you have a Power Mac, you can use one of its PCI slots in league with an 802.11n PCI adapter. You can also add an *n*-flavored USB adapter or, if you have a 15- or 17-inch PowerBook, use an 802.11n Cardbus adapter. Both OWC (eshop.macsales.com) and QuickerTek (www.quickertek.com) make such adapters.

These wireless devices are compatible only with the 2.4GHz standard. If you use AirPort Utility to set your Base Station to the 802.11n Only (5GHz) radio mode, these cards won't be able to access it.

Even at 2.4GHz, these devices will speed up networking. I tested the MaxPower USB and Cardbus adapters on my 1.25GHz PowerBook. Using the built-in AirPort card, copying a 650MB file via my 802.11n-compatible AirPort Extreme took about six minutes. With the MaxPower adapters, it took around three minutes. An Ethernet transfer took just 30 seconds, so if you can, run wire for faster speeds. ☒

Senior Editor **Christopher Breen** is the author of *The iPod and iTunes Pocket Guide*, third edition, and *The iPhone Pocket Guide*, second edition (Peachpit Press, 2008).

ICON BY PAUL HOWALT

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

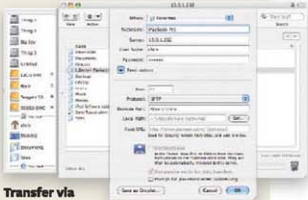
4 Ways to Access Your Mac from Afar

Even the best planners occasionally leave a file behind or need to configure a setting on their deskbound Macs from the road. Here are a few tools to make these chores easier.

Back to My Mac If you are running OS X 10.5 and have a .Mac account, Leopard's Back to My Mac may be a useful tool for controlling your Mac remotely. However, Back to My Mac is a work in progress. When it works, it's great. When it doesn't, it can cause you much anguish.

Leopard's Screen Sharing Less glitchy is Leopard's Screen Sharing feature. On the computer you're leaving behind, open the Sharing preference pane, enable Screen Sharing (Leopard) or Apple Remote Desktop (Tiger), and note the IP address. Tiger users should click on Access Privileges and choose which options to allow for each user account.

On the other Mac, navigate to /System/Library/CoreServices and launch Screen Sharing. In the Connect To Shared Computer window, enter the IP address for the remote Mac and click on Connect. Enter your user name and password for the remote computer and click on Connect.



Transfer via Transmit With an FTP client such as Panic's Transmit and OS X's Remote Login enabled, you can securely transfer files to and from a remote Mac.

JollysFastVNC If you're running Tiger on both your Macs, you need a VNC (Virtual Network Computing) program, such as Patrick Stein's free JollysFastVNC (macworld.com/3776), to view a remote Mac's screen. Although it's still an alpha release, it has reliably allowed me to access the screens of my remote computers when I'm running OS X 10.4.

Transmit To retrieve files, you'll need access to the remote computer's hard drive. Go to the Sharing preference pane and enable Remote Login. This enables Secure Shell (SSH) access and lets you use SFTP (Secure FTP). Now you can use an FTP client such as Panic's $30 Transmit 3.6.6 (www.panic.com) and elect to transfer files over SFTP rather than standard FTP (see "Transfer via Transmit").

For more on this, see this month's *Mobile Mac*, "Transferring Files Securely," on page 86.

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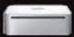

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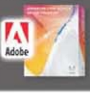

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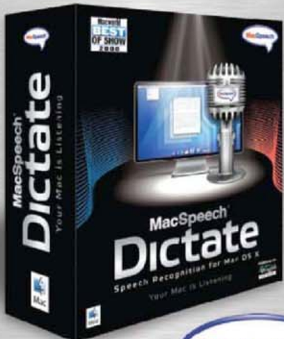
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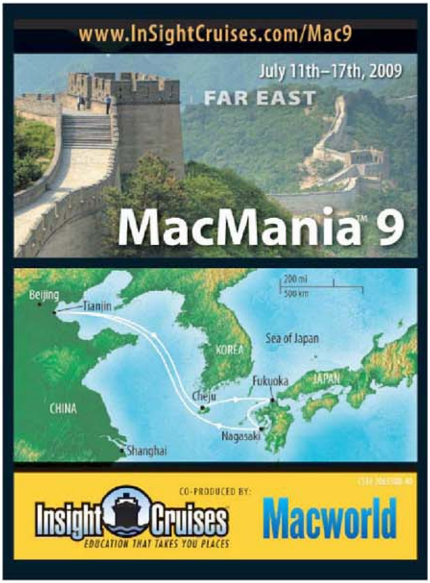

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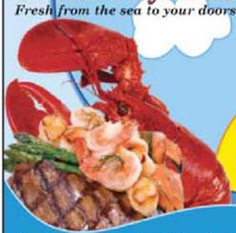

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By Andy Ihnatko

Reading Is Fundamental

Apple, talk to Amazon. I want my iPhone e-books.

Since the iPhone App Store opened, a nonnegotiable part of my day is devoted to safely guiding cartoon animals around a go-kart track. And I've yet to encounter someone who finds PhoneSaber as funny as I do, but every new person I meet is a new opportunity to prove every last friend and family member wrong.

Yes, these new iPhone apps have finally delivered on a promise only hinted at when the iPhone arrived a year ago. Today, the ability to evade productive work and avoid rational, linear sequences of thought during those idle moments in line at the post office is no farther away than your shirt pocket.

But What about E-books?

Still, as much as I like burning brain cells... I like to read. And I wonder why Apple hasn't done for electronic books what it has done for other creative arts such as music, movies, and TV shows. Why hasn't Apple crafted a top-notch shopping and viewing experience for books, and then slapped the greatest works of our most honored writers in copy-protected chains? Why is it that the basic concept of reading hasn't been perverted into yet another massive, glorious, fire-belching engine that makes money for Apple?

"Because I *hate* e-books," you protest. "And so does everybody else."

OK, I hear you. But this dislike of e-books probably exists for the same reason that so many people hated digital music before the iPod and the iTunes Store came along. While the concept itself is good, the problem is that, to date, nobody has implemented it in a way that doesn't suck.

The closest we've come to nonsuckage so far is Amazon.com's Kindle. And even there, plenty of work remains to be done. When the Kindle was released last year, I was pretty skeptical about the thing. If you presented hardware this ugly to Steve Jobs as a proposed Apple product design, you'd be lucky if he only threw it at you, instead of inserting it *into* you. And for a bunch of reasons related to its physical shortcomings, I felt that reading a book on the Kindle wasn't any better than reading one on an iPhone.

Yet the Kindle has become the way I buy and read books—for many of the same reasons that the iPod and iTunes became the way I buy and listen to music. Shopping for new stuff is just so *easy*. And my trim little Kindle always contains at least two shelves' worth of books. Whether I'm anticipating a half hour in a burrito joint or a week in Kauai, my reading needs are covered.

See? Amazon took an existing concept that for years had been flailing at gaining mainstream acceptance, and built a total experience around it that makes this form of digital media suddenly seem practical and relevant.

Come on... that's *Apple*'s shtick, isn't it?

I'm confident that Steve Jobs can match Jeff Bezos, crazy for crazy.

Crazy Billionaires

E-books would be a natural extension of the iTunes Store. They would instantly extend the reach and credibility of the entire iPhone and iPod lines. And we wouldn't have to spend $359 for a funky, stinky-looking mutt of a reader.

And talk about killer apps! College students love three things: iPods, that M.C. Escher poster of the bearded guy holding a mirrored ball, and griping about the insane cost of textbooks. If Apple added a "Books and Textbooks" wing to the iTunes Store and released a larger version of the iPod touch that could display a credible, book-size page, it would almost instantly become a standard-issue item on every campus.

I'm still pretty sure that Amazon's Kindle only made it to the market at all because it's the pet project of Amazon's crazy, iconoclastic billionaire CEO. Apple's own iconoclastic CEO might not be bankrolling his own private space fleet, but still, I'm confident that Steve Jobs can match Jeff Bezos, crazy for crazy. Steve also tends to combine Being Crazy with Making Crazy Seem Perfectly Sane, which is something Jeff still seems to be struggling with.

I realize that the idea of putting a thousand-year-old tradition of book publishing out to pasture with a free iPhone book reader app is completely crazy. But it could be done. And even better than Apple competing against Amazon: what if the two companies worked together? Let Amazon build and fortify relationships with publishers. Let Apple create the relationships with the consumer. Add a Kindle-compatible reader to the App Store. The result could be a revolution. ☒

Andy Ihnatko is a technology columnist at the *Chicago Sun-Times* and the author of numerous books, including *iPhone Fully Loaded* (Wiley, 2007).

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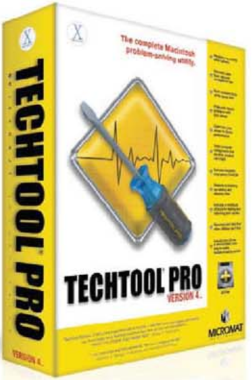
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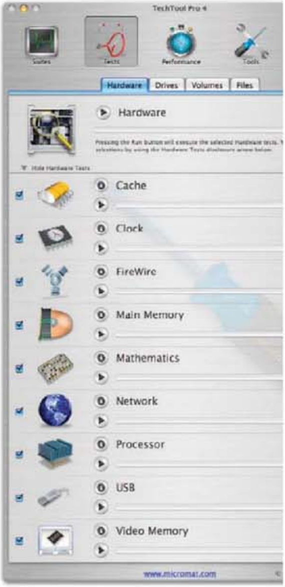
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